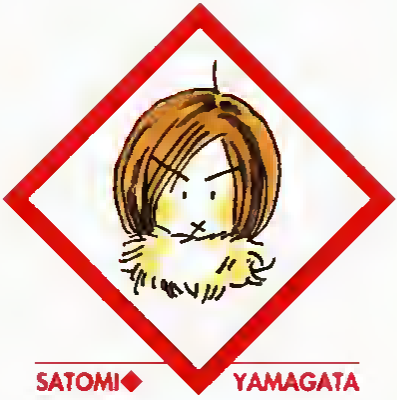
スリークオーター

やまがたさとみ

◆芳文社◆

花音
THREE QUARTERS
スリークオーター
3/4
やまがたさとみ
SATOMI YAMAGATA



SATOMI◆ YAMAGATA

やまがたさとみ

PROFILE

1970年8月21日生／AB型
現在、兵庫県宝塚市在住。
好きなもの／乾物・漬物・惰眠。
嫌いなもの／にんじん・ピーマン・読書・背景描き。悩みごと／頭が悪いこと・自分のマンガの絵が難しくて描けないこと。困ってます。

COVER DESIGN
CHIAKI-K

Hanamoto◆Comics Hanamoto◆Comics Hanamoto◆Comics

スリークオーター

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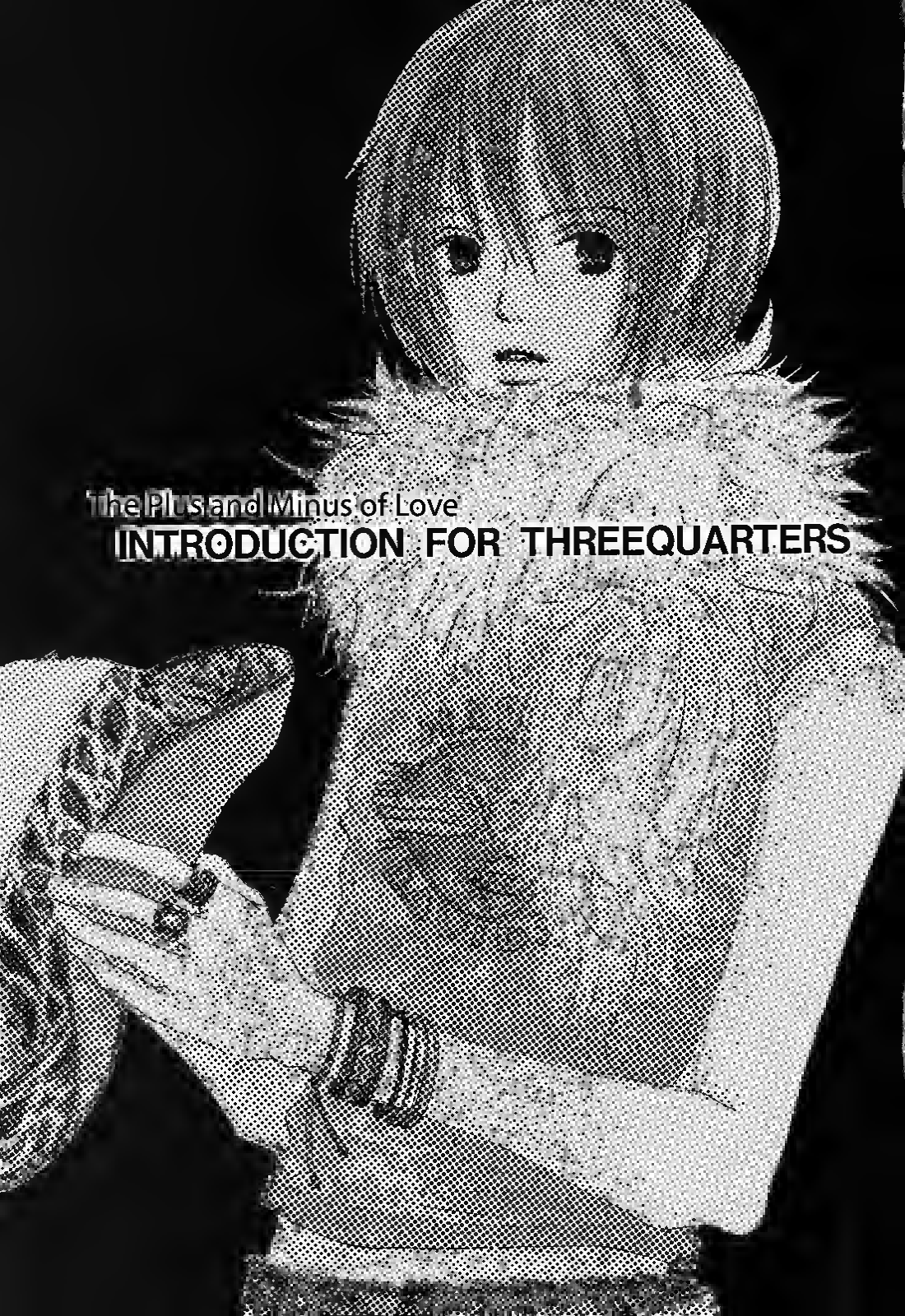
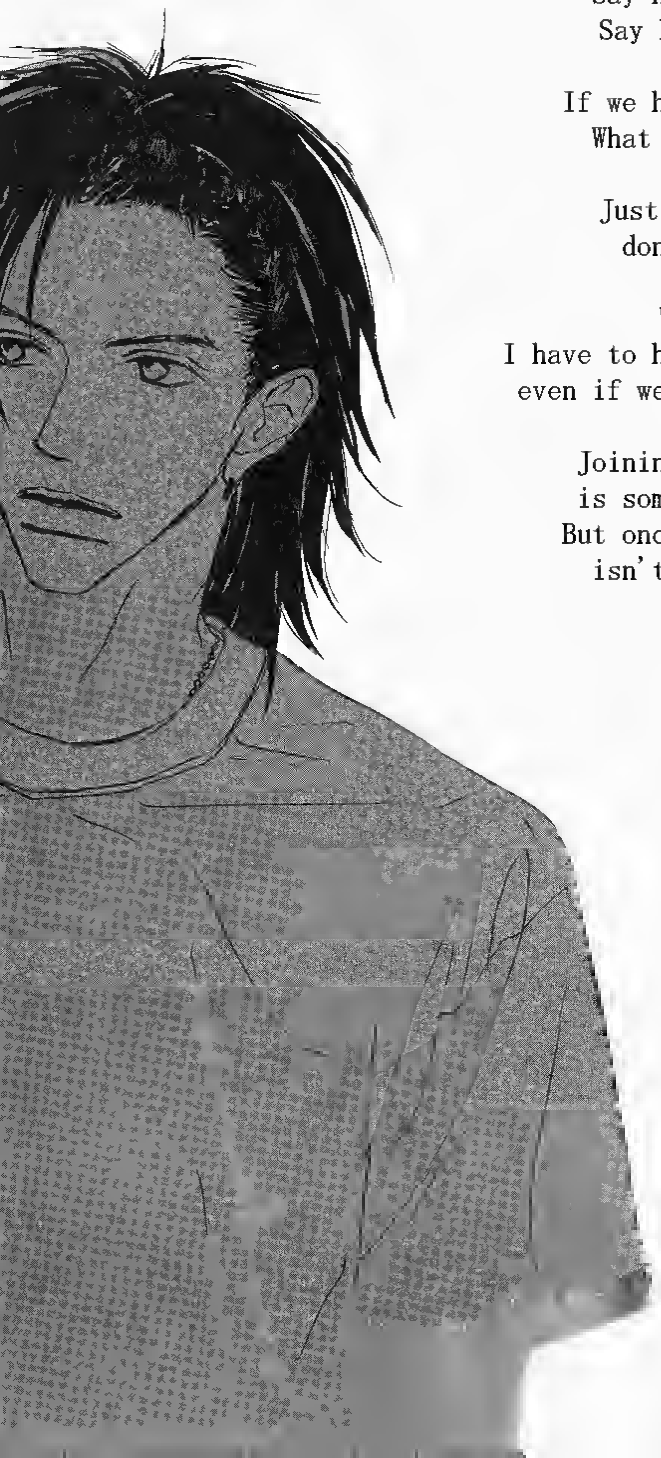

The Plus and Minus of Love
INTRODUCTION FOR THREEQUARTERS

I hate getting hurt by acting like things are okay. But I like being unable to hide that.



Say how much you love me
Say how much I love you

If we have the same feelings
What can we do about it?

Just because you got it
don't be so relieved

We joined hands
I have to hug you enough to hurt you
even if we could come apart easily

Joining hands with someone
is something very difficult
But once you separate hands,
isn't joining them again
more difficult?

Why is a love that
is deprived of one's sight forbidden?

Why can't I hold on to a feeling,
thinking of nothing else but it?

But there are some people who
think that drowing in love is stupid

Cornering my destination, it disappears
it's already useless, I'm on the edge

If only I have a remain strengh
If only I can exert that strength
If only I can become aware of that strengh
If only I can believe in that strengh

I think that if I live everyday, very commonly,
I will become a normal human being

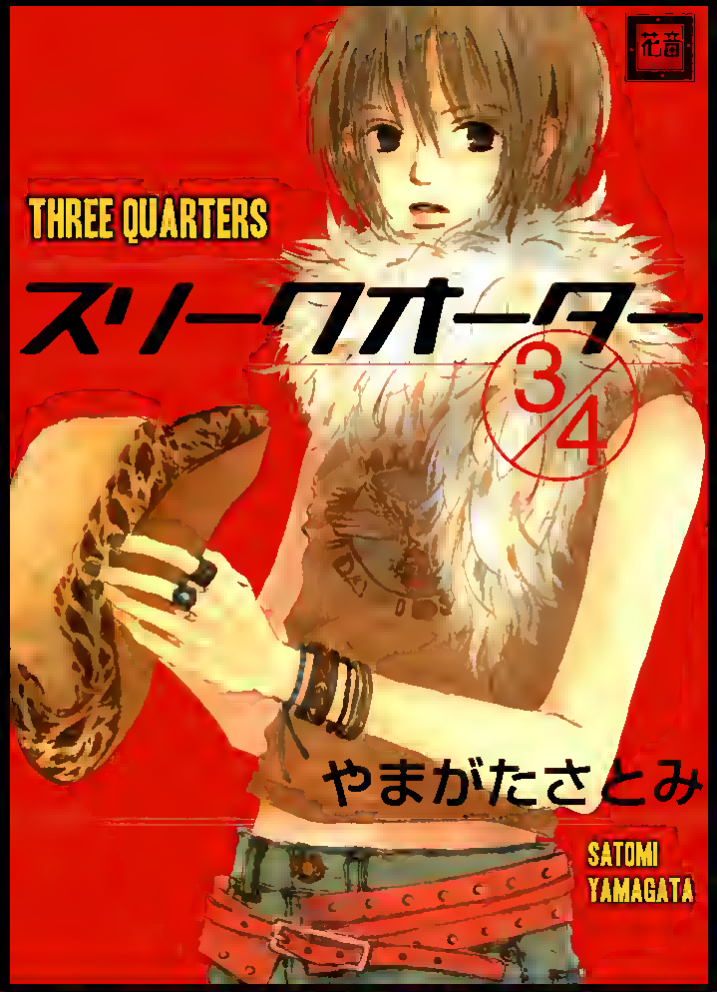
Then
Is my heart moving nowadays?

This is what I think...
The person who is attracted
by the opposite sex
and the one who isn't,
they are the same
Is not as simple as
having a switch of love
turned on or turned off, is it?
That's the law of homosexual love

INTRODUCTION FOR THREEQUARTERS

END

trad/edit: tisheenamanzana.blogspot.com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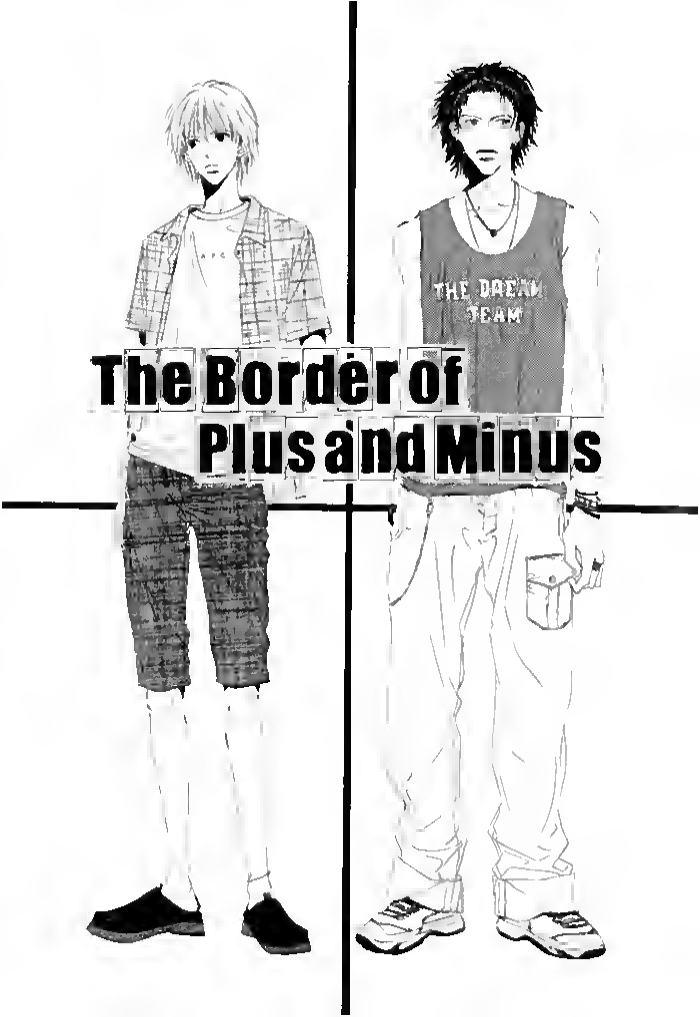
SATOMI
YAMAGATA

THE BORDER OF PLUS AND MINUS

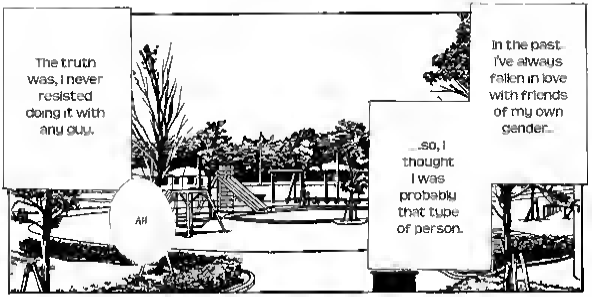
from the manga,
Three Quarters
by
Satomi Yamagata

Scanner: PresenceDear
Translator: PresenceDear
Editor: RockCJ

http://yourpresence.livejournal.com



The Border of Plus and Minus


The truth was, I never resisted doing it with any guy.
In the past, I've always fallen in love with friends of my own gender...
...so, I thought I was probably that type of person.
AH

AH...
STOP
SO, I BET YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO LIKES IT ROUGH
BUT THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT? YOU'RE ACTING LIKE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME...
IT
IT HURTS

LIKE YOU'RE GONNA CALL ME? IDIOT
HEY, GIVE ME YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER WHEN WE'RE DONE

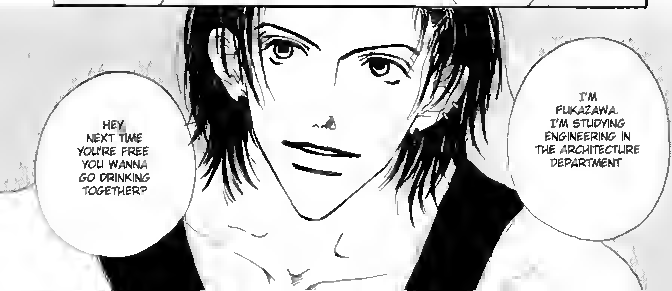
I'd never fallen in love with a "man who likes men."
There was just one problem.
But even if I made a friend..
...we'd start getting along, and then I'd just fall in love with him..
...so, my life is over
WHAT THE HELL?
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE WHO SUCKS
I'VE BEEN IN COLLEGE FOR TWO YEARS NOW AND I HAVEN'T MADE A SINGLE FRIEND
IS THAT YOU YAMASHITA?

HEY, REMEMBER ME FROM THAT PARTY THE OTHER NIGHT?
OH... SO IT IS YOU
PEOPLE OFTEN CALL US THE ARCHI-TORTURE DEPARTMENT BY MISTAKE
YOU'RE THAT SKIRT CHASER IN THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT FUKAZAWA...
YEAH I TOOK HER HOME
AND WOUND UP MISSING THE LAST TRAIN
WERE YOU HOOKING UP WITH SOME GIRL AROUND HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE SO LATE?

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY SO I THOUGHT I'D KILL SOME TIME AND SLEEP OVER THERE
YOU WERE HERE BEFORE ME
...ON THE BENCH IN THE BACK
Even though we're the same age, Fukazawa was a year behind me in school.
We first spoke at a party not long ago.
I don't know whether he failed his first year or just didn't pass the entrance exams.
He was good looking, but famous for missing classes and messing with the girls.
THE SELECTION OF GIRLS REALLY SUCKS TONIGHT.
WHO ROUNDED UP ALL THESE TRADE SCHOOL TYPES?
LOVE

WELL YOU'RE THE SEXIEST OF THE BUNCH, RIGHT?
HUH?
THAT'S MISSING THE TARGET BY A MILE!
HEY ANY OF 'EM HIT THE MARK FOR YOU?
NO NO I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED
YOU FIND ANYONE HERE SEXY?

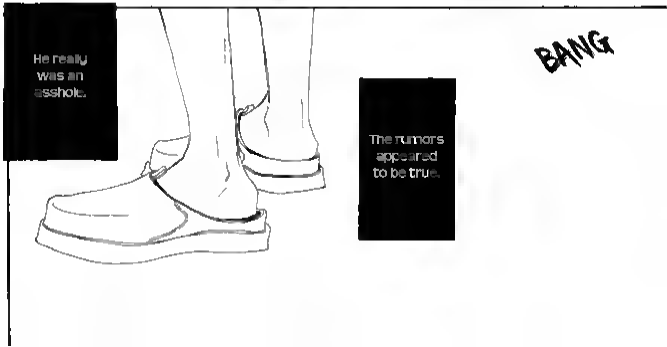
MAN! SOUNDS BORING...
ENGLISH
BUT YOU'RE AN INTERESTING GUY
SORRY IT'S NOT EXCITING ENOUGH FOR YOU
YAMASHITA, RIGHT? WHAT DEPARTMENT ARE YOU IN?


HEY NEXT TIME YOU'RE FREE YOU WANNA GO DRINKING TOGETHER?
I'M FUKAZAWA. I'M STUDYING ENGINEERING IN THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

YAMASHITA
There was no nope. None.
YOU GOT A MINUTE?
I was already falling in love again, so I just walked away quietly
I already knew what would happen, so I was used to giving up.
I DON'T USUALLY TALK TO GUYS LIKE HIM
CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

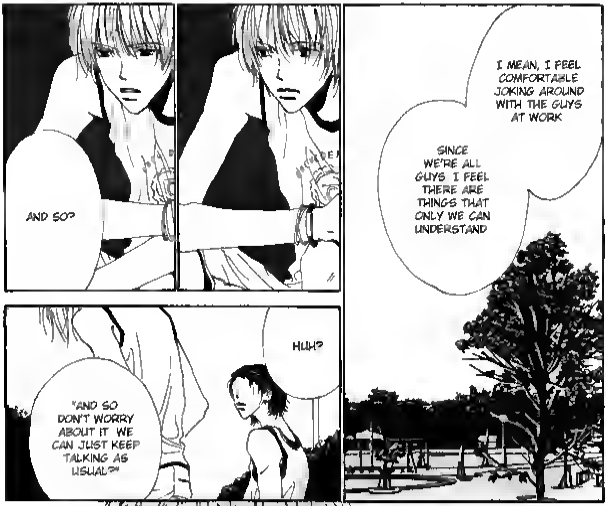
...
SO YAMASHITA, PLEASE...
WAIT HERE WHILE WE DO IT
WE GUYS HAVE AN AGREEMENT RIGHT?

...JUST WATCH THE DOOR FOR TEN MINUTES


He really was an asshole.
The rumors appeared to be true.
BANG

...I waited a whole week, fantasizing about him when I was alone at night, imagining other guys hands were his, hoping and dreaming about things that would never happen.
Still...
He was just being polite, I told my self.
"Next time, you wanna go drinking together?"
In fact, we exchanged cell phone numbers and he never called.
...all of this just played out in my own mind...
Usually...
...these wants and desires...
But maybe...

he just found out.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME. I DON'T REALLY CARE.
MY SEX LIFE REALLY ISN'T WORTH DISCUSSING BUT
I MEAN, IT'S MORE LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
WOMEN DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE, EVEN TO ME.


AND SO?
HUH?
"AND SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE CAN JUST KEEP TALKING AS USUAL?"
I MEAN, I FEEL COMFORTABLE JOKING AROUND WITH THE GUYS AT WORK
SINCE WE'RE ALL GUYS. I FEEL THERE ARE THINGS THAT ONLY WE CAN UNDERSTAND

WORDS LIKE THAT ARE CHEAP RIGHT NOW.
WHAT YOU SAID DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME
IT'S JUST REALLY CHEAP AND DEPRESSING

THEY CAN DO IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT
IT'S OKAY FOR NORMAL GUYS... TO GO OUT AND HAVE FUN
YOU MIGHT SAY... IN THE END IT'S THE SAME AS LOSING
AND I CAN NEVER SAY ANYTHING SO I GIVE UP
I'M ALWAYS FALLING MADLY IN LOVE WITH THE GUYS AROUND ME
I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME
WHY?

...I would be saved again
If I could fall in love with someone who'd hold me...
—
OH...

I'M SORRY...
EVER SINCE THAT PARTY I...
...I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE STRANGE BUT...
SO...
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN
THEN, YOU WANNA DO IT WITH ME?
NO!
QUIT ACTING STUPID!
FINE WHATEVER.

YOU HAVE SEX BECAUSE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SALVATION
COMPARED TO ME THAT'S PRETTY HUMAN
THINKING TOO MUCH MAKES YOU CRAZY
I DON'T SEE GIRLS AS PEOPLE
I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT LOVING OR CARING FOR THEM
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME

Even before we knew each other...
...we had glimpsed the darkness inside each other.
It was a load of crap.
But the moment was right and, I'm ashamed to say, I was comforted.
He came to my apartment, and we took turns using the shower. All of yesterday's dirtiness flowed away...
...the matters weighing on our minds, both reason and pity, entirely washed away.
"Yamashita, you live alone, right?" A confirmation. That's all.
Fukazawa didn't say anything more than that.
In the summer, dawn came early. In the middle of the crowd on the first train...
...we turned in same direction and left.
...fell into each other's arms.
AH
We...
AH

REALLY GOOD
AH FUKAZAWA
IT'S GOOD
NO
N AH
NN
AH
I M COMING

It wasn't casual sex.
What were we doing?
It wasn't love.
YOU REALLY ARE AN ASSHOLE...
I wasn't sure what it meant.
SO ARE YOU.
There was no kindness or cruelty.
Let me put it this way...
There was no infusion of love or coldness.
There was just .
AH
AH
...just an intensity... an unwavering intensity...
UH -

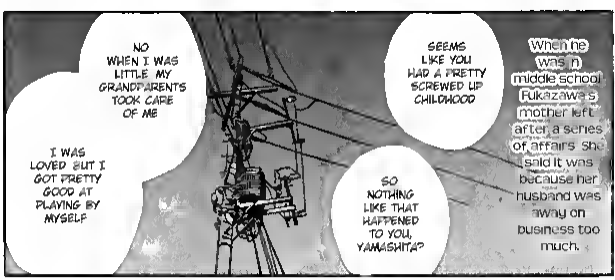
we brought it out in each other
SO WE'RE OKAY RIGHT?
I WANT TO KNOW THE WAY TO MAKE YOU COME...
...WHERE AND HOW IT FEELS
WHAT YOU'RE LIKE WHEN YOU COME
I WANT TO KNOW

WHAT TIME IS IT...?
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
WELL I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY FOR FOOD
Before I knew it, it was evening.
WE?
HOW LOW CAN WE GET?
ASSHOLE
HA HA
TAKE IT EASY I'LL PAY YOU BACK WITH MY BODY
NO THANKS
I wondered if he was disappointed with what we'd just done

WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUKAZAWA? I'VE HEARD YOU HAVE NO MONEY
AND YOU HARDLY EVER GO TO CLASS. WHAT'S GOING ON? GIRL PROBLEMS?
HELL NO!
YES, REALLY
We began talking like we'd known each other for years
REALLY?
I DIDN'T COME, BUT...
DON'T CALL ME A "HOMO"! AND DESPITE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE DONE THINGS WITH WOMEN
YAMASHITA, WHY DID A HOMO LIKE YOU GO TO THAT PARTY?

HUH?
MY DAD'S BEEN HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR A FEW YEARS SO HE CAN'T GO TO JOB SITES VERY OFTEN.
MY FAMILY... MY DAD, MY LITTLE BROTHER AND I... WORK IN CONSTRUCTION, BUT...
I HAVE A JOB! I HAVE TO PAY FOR LIVING EXPENSES

The conversation went well.
FOR MY DAD'S SAKE YOU KNOW HOW IT IS
AFTER FAILING THE ENTRANCE EXAM AND HAVING TO STUDY FOR ANOTHER YEAR, I COULDN'T BACK OUT OF GOING TO COLLEGE
SO THE SITUATION WITH GOING TO CLASS
It was sorta interesting to join fact with rumor


NO, WHEN I WAS LITTLE MY GRANDPARENTS TOOK CARE OF ME
I WAS LOVED BUT I GOT PRETTY GOOD AT PLAYING BY MYSELF
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAD A PRETTY SCREWED UP CHILDHOOD
SO NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED TO YOU, YAMASHITA?
When he was in middle school Fukazawa's mother left after a series of affairs. She said it was because her husband was away on business too much.

I GUESS
WE GET ALONG PRETTY WELL DON'T WE?
Fukazawa was completely content with this situation
WELL
I had the sense that my feelings were probably a little different from his
I wondered if I could get past that
HEY YAMASHITA, LET'S DROP BY A CONVENIENCE STORE
NO I JUST WANNA LAZE AROUND
WE CAN GET SOME BEER AND DRINK ALL NIGHT
SEE, I'M NOT DOING THIS WITH A GIRL SO
YOU WANNA TALK SOME MORE?
I CAN DO IT UNTIL I'M SPENT
WAKE UP AND DO IT AGAIN
THEN SLEEP WHEN I'M TIRED
AND EAT WHEN I'M HUNGRY

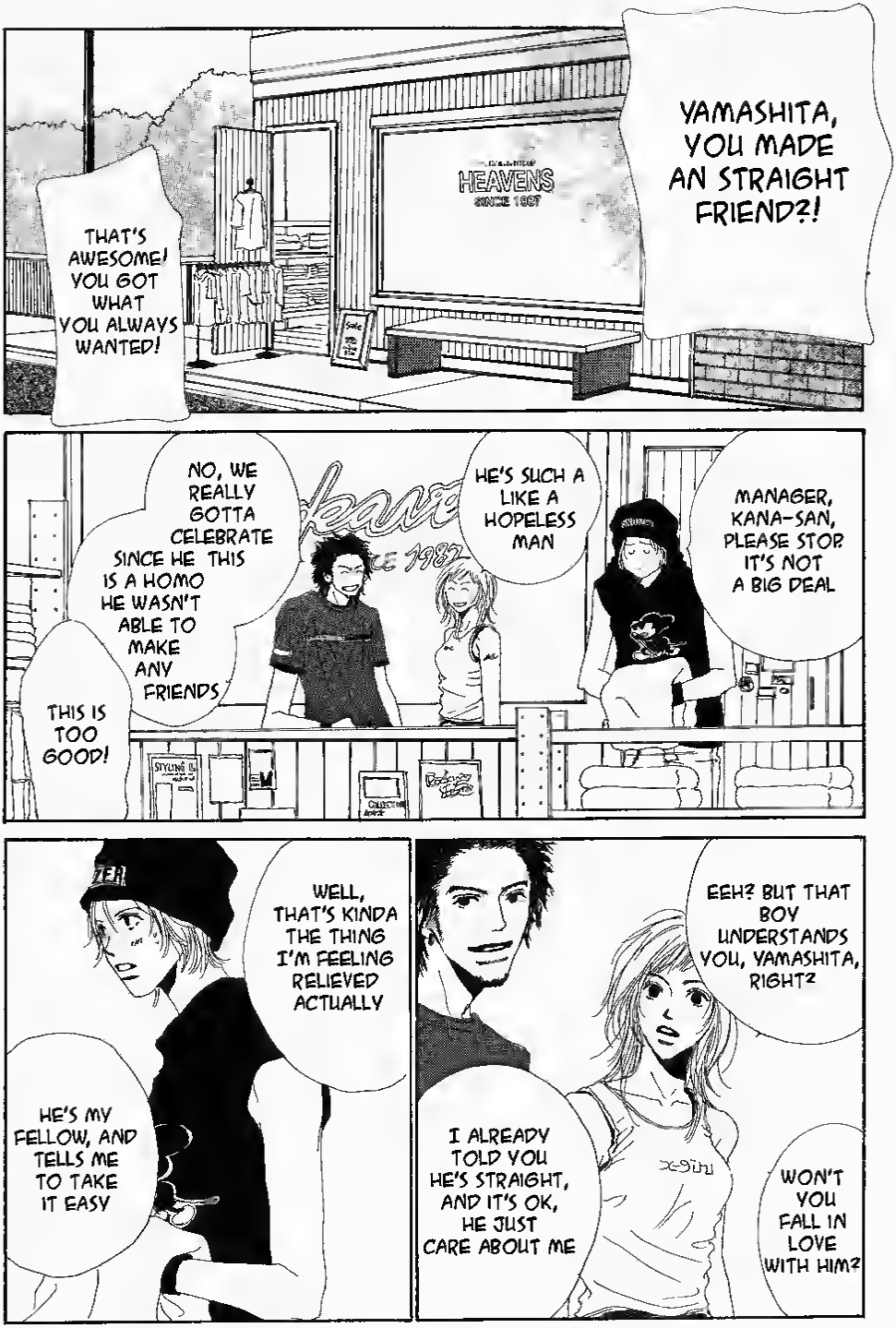
YOU'LL GET TIRED OF THE SAME OLD THING
...AND ONE DAY, YOU'LL LEAVE RIGHT?
AND THEN, EVENTUALLY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
...I'LL DEFINITELY FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
I'M NOT SURE I CAN CONTROL MY FEELINGS...
BUT I'M WEAK, SO...
NO FOR ME...
FOR BOTH OF US?
MAYBE
AND THAT WILL FUCK UP EVERYTHING?

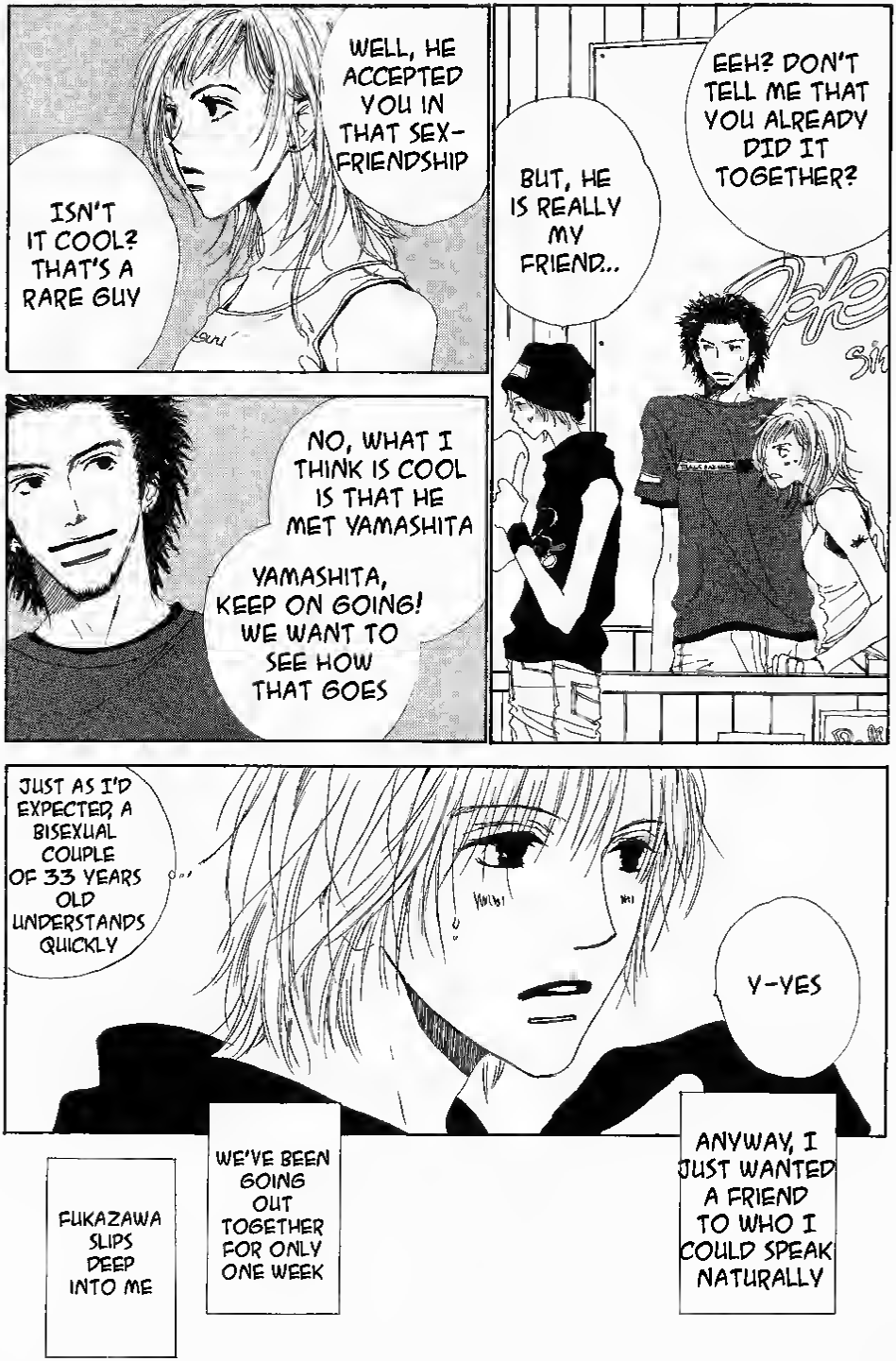
HEY THAT'S FINE I'M NOT A ROMANTIC...
SO I DON'T CARE IF IT'S FUCKED UP FOR YOU
BESIDES THERE ARE THINGS THAT TWO GUYS CAN TEACH EACH OTHER
YEAH THAT'S TRUE
SO LET'S DRINK TO OUR SCREWED UP RELATIONSHIP
DON'T CALL IT "SCREWED UP"!
Should I let myself be carried away by this guy?
As it stands at this moment, it's both good and bad.
END

SNOOZER
& LIGHT LOVE
LET'S HAVE A LIGHT LOVE!

OUR ETERNAL PASSWORD
"LET'S HAVE A LIGHT LOVE!!"

IT'S GOOD, IT'S GOOD. IT'S VERY LIKE US, ISN'T IT?
IF WE CONTINUE BEING SEX FRIENDS
IT WOULD BE THE BEST!
DON'T YOU THINK SO? YOU AND ME


YAMASHITA, YOU MADE AN STRAIGHT FRIEND?!
HEAVENS
SINCE 1997
THAT'S AWESOME! YOU GOT WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED!
MANAGER, KANA-SAN, PLEASE STOP. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
HE'S SUCH A LIKE A HOPELESS MAN
NO, WE REALLY GOTTA CELEBRATE SINCE HE THIS IS A HOMO HE WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS
THIS IS TOO GOOD!
EEH? BUT THAT BOY UNDERSTANDS YOU, YAMASHITA, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S KINDA THE THING I'M FEELING RELIEVED ACTUALLY
I ALREADY TOLD YOU HE'S STRAIGHT, AND IT'S OK, HE JUST CARE ABOUT ME
WON'T YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM?
HE'S MY FELLOW, AND TELLS ME TO TAKE IT EASY


WELL, HE ACCEPTED YOU IN THAT SEX-FRIENDSHIP
ISN'T IT COOL? THAT'S A RARE GUY
EEH? DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU ALREADY DID IT TOGETHER?
BUT, HE IS REALLY MY FRIEND..
NO, WHAT I THINK IS COOL IS THAT HE MET YAMASHITA
YAMASHITA, KEEP ON GOING! WE WANT TO SEE HOW THAT GOES
JUST AS I'D EXPECTED, A BISEXUAL COUPLE OF 33 YEARS OLD UNDERSTANDS QUICKLY
Y-YES
FUKAZAWA SLIPS DEEP INTO ME
WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT TOGETHER FOR ONLY ONE WEEK
ANYWAY, I JUST WANTED A FRIEND TO WHO I COULD SPEAK NATURALLY

SHUT UP!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE STRAIGHT, YOU'RE DOING IT WITH ANOTHER MAN
TELL ME YAMASHITA
YOU REALLY LIKE BEING PENETRATED?
EEEH? WELL, AS FOR ME, I DON'T REALLY HATE GIRLS
IT'S JUST THAT I'M RATHER WEAK, AND I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO SUPPORT SOMEONE
WELL I CERTAINLY LIKE GIRLS, BUT
IT'S JUST BECAUSE I DO IT WITH THEM, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR THEM
THAT'S RIGHT YAMASHITA, YOU ARE THE PERFECT UKE
AH? MAYBE I HATE GIRLS...
DON'T CALL ME UKE!

I SERIOUSLY CONSIDERATE THIS FELLOWSHIP THAT'S WHY I'M BEING GENTLE
WELL, DON'T WORRY
YOU ARE THE WORST!
SAME TO YOU! C'MON, DON'T SIT, JUST HUG ME MORE
NO, THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I LIKE SEX
THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU'VE BEEN GOING OUT WITH ME?

TILL NOW, WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER SERIOUSLY
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE TRUST EACH OTHER, LIKE THIS
AH
JUST THE FRIENDSHIP WAS 100% AGAINST FUKAZAWA
TO ME MAYBE THAT WASN'T RIGHT
THIS RELATIONSHIP TURNED A LITTLE DANGEROUS
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
DOES THAT YOU FEEL GOOD?
YEAH
DO YOU LIKE SEX?
C'MON, WHAT IS IT?

DO YOU WANT TO DO IT EVERYDAY?
I DON'T REALLY CARE THAT
I JUST HOPE THAT WE GO THE WAY AND WE DO IT GOOD
...IT'S ALL RIGHT
AAH
WELL, IT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY
AH
...SORRY YAMASHITA WHEN I LAUGHED I LOST MY ERECTION
RIGHT...
NO WAY, I WON'T FALL FOR YA
YOU NEVER KNOW!
WELL, WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, JUST CONFESS,OK?

EH? AH, NO, THAT'S NOT IT
I WAS THINKING THAT I BETTER RETURN HOME NOW CAUSE I GOT TO WAKE UP TOMORROW EARLY IN THE MORNING
SORRY FUKAZAWA
MAYBE THIS TIME YOU WERE FORCING YOURSELF ...
...AH YES
THAT'S NOT IT!
SORRY, I MADE YOU WASTE YOUR DAY OFF
RIGHT, YOU GOTTA WORK
I KNOW
BUT
COOL IT, TRUST ME
I WON'T FORCE MYSELF
IF I'M TIRED OR SOMETHING

I REALLY CARE ABOUT...
ABOUT YOU
AND ABOUT THIS RELATIONSHIP
OUR FRIENDSHIP IS ALSO FUNDAMENTAL
HAS A BIT OF LOVE AND A BIT OF EROTISM?
IT'S JUST GREAT THAT OUR FELLOWSHIP IS NOT SO NAIVE!

...NO
THAT'S NOT IT ...BUT..
THAT'S WHAT I THINK
MAYBE... YOU DON'T THINK SO..?
NUMBE
RING
IS IT MINE?
RING
RING

RING
RING
.....
SNOOZER
ANSWER IT QUICKLY
SHUT UP I WONT MEET YA, I WON'T!
It's me, Keiko
YOU BITCH... DON'T CALL ME ANYMORE
WHO IS IT?
DON'T GET ME SERIOUS
SNOOZER

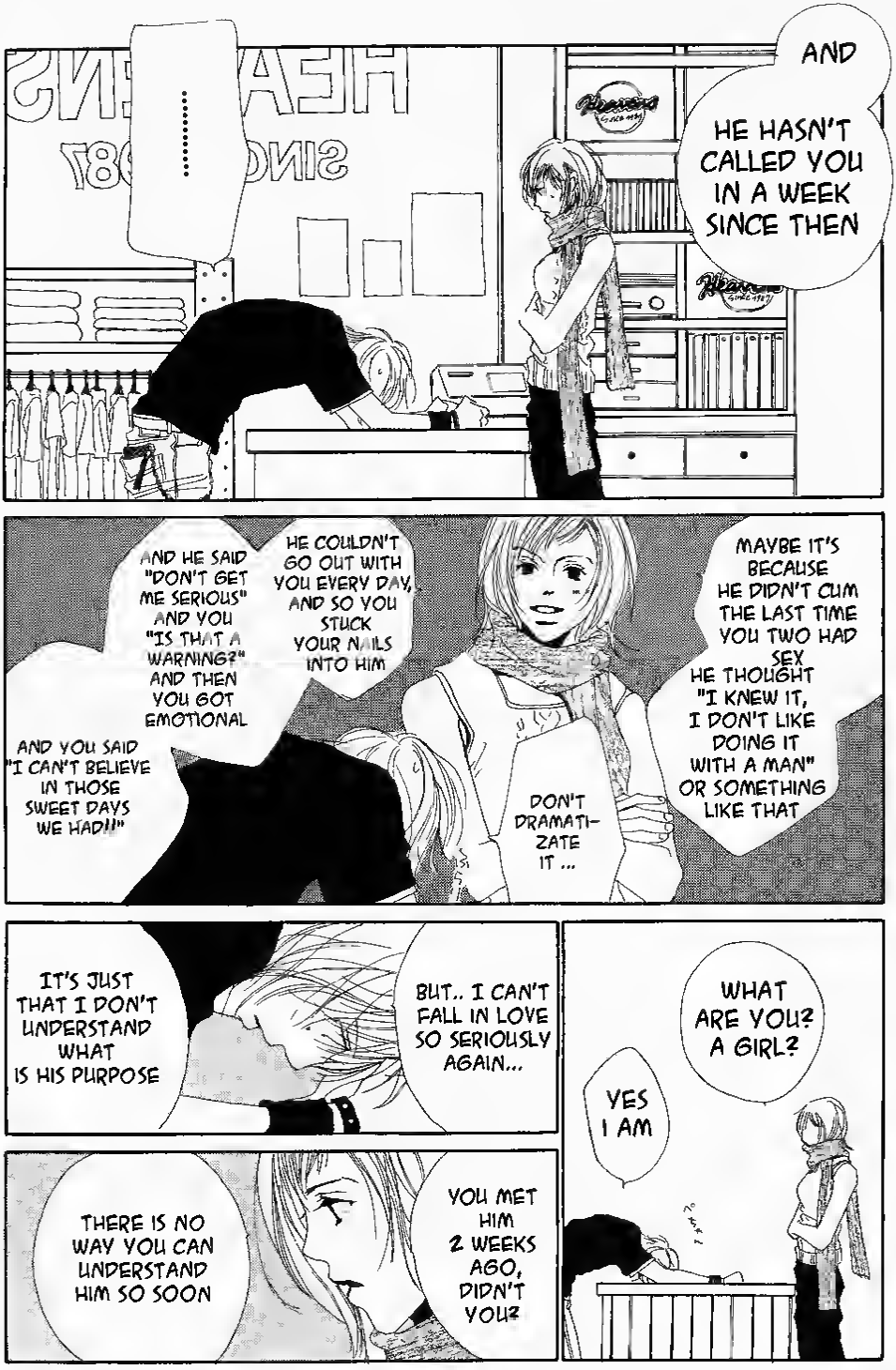
IF I GET SERIOUS, WILL THIS END?

AFTER ALL
WHAT IS IT THAT FUKAZAWA WANT FROM ME?
TELL ME, FUKAZAWA

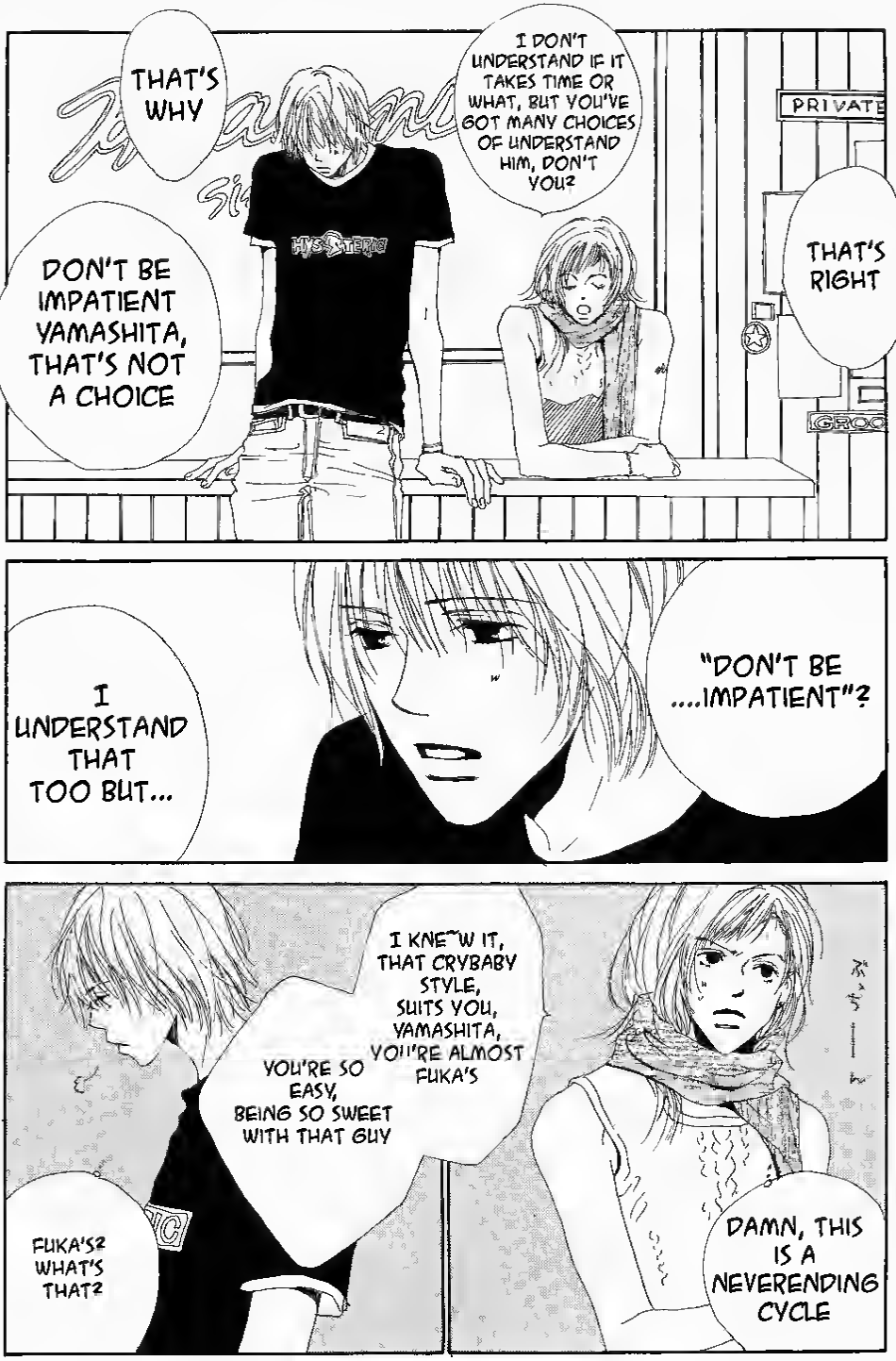
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH YOU?

EVEN IF WE ARE JUST PLAYING AROUND, EVEN IF WE ARE SERIOUS, EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT WE ARE JUST SEX-FRIENDS, WHO WOULD BE SATISFY WITH THAT?

MAYBE YOU WANT TO GIVE A MEANING TO THAT FELLOWSHIP, BUT TO ME IT'S THE SAME AS A COMMON LOVE AFFAIR
I UNDERSTAND THAT FAR


.....
AND
HE HASN'T CALLED YOU IN A WEEK SINCE THEN
AND HE SAID "DON'T GET ME SERIOUS" AND YOU "IS THAT A WARNING?" AND THEN YOU GOT EMOTIONAL
HE COULDN'T GO OUT WITH YOU EVERY DAY, AND SO YOU STUCK YOUR NAILS INTO HIM
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE DIDN'T CUM THE LAST TIME YOU TWO HAD SEX
HE THOUGHT "I KNEW IT, I DON'T LIKE DOING IT WITH A MAN" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
AND YOU SAID "I CAN'T BELIEVE IN THOSE SWEET DAYS WE HAD!!"
DON'T DRAMATI-ZATE IT ...
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE
BUT.. I CAN'T FALL IN LOVE SO SERIOUSLY AGAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU? A GIRL?
YES I AM
THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIM SO SOON
YOU MET HIM 2 WEEKS AGO, DIDN'T YOU?

I GUESS SO..
BUT I'M GOING TO UNDERSTAND HIM
THAT GUY'S PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE IS HIS PHILOSOPHY OF SEX
I USED TO THINK THAT MY HOMOSEXUALITY WAS LIKE MY DISTORTED PART
I DIDN'T WANT BE BELIEVED BY TOO MANY PEOPLE I ENDED UP MEETING SOME OF THEM, AND QUICKLY I WAS SHARING THAT PART
THAT'S WHY...I THOUGHT THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND ANYBODY QUICKLY AND DEEP
EVEN IF I UNDERSTAND IT IN MY HEAD
I DON'T GET IT IN MY HEART
BUT YOU KNOW


THAT'S WHY
DON'T BE IMPATIENT YAMASHITA, THAT'S NOT A CHOICE
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IF IT TAKES TIME OR WHAT, BUT YOU'VE GOT MANY CHOICES OF UNDERSTAND HIM, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT
PRIVATE
I UNDERSTAND THAT TOO BUT...
"DON'T BE ....IMPATIENT"?
FUKA'S? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'RE SO EASY, BEING SO SWEET WITH THAT GUY
I KNEW IT, THAT CRYBABY STYLE, SUITS YOU, YAMASHITA, YOU'RE ALMOST FUKA'S
DAMN, THIS IS A NEVERENDING CYCLE

C'mon, Kana san, you just revealed my secret!
waa it just slipped out of my mouth
HEY KANA-SAN!
I BROUGHT THE SAMPLES OF THE PARTI-TION BOARD!
FUKA'S!
Well it's ok I guess
AAH, SHE MEANS THAT I'M FUKA-ZAWA'S...
AH?
DID I TELL YOU HIS NAME..?
AH..AAH AH..AH
YO YAMASHITA!
AH?!
IF HAVE SO MANY FREE TIME, TREAT ME WITH SOME FOOD
I'M ALWAYS IN THE MOOD FOR THAT
PEOPLE IS BUSY WORKING AND YOU'RE BEING IDLE

YOU WAITED A WEEK FOR ME
YOU IDIOT
AND SO THIS IS A PLACE THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE MEET AND GATHERS WITH NATURE
BEFORE WE MEET EACH OTHER, MAYBE WE HAD SOME UNDER-STANDING
BY THE WAY THIS SHOP, "HEAVENS", HAS A FAMOUS BISEXUAL MANAGER
IN SHORT IS THAT WE BOTH WERE APPROVED BY KANA-SAN
THEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO HIM BY KANA-SAN, WHO IS HER FRIEND
FUKAZAWA HAS RETURNED TO THIS SHOP, AND NOW HE IS WORKING IN THE INTERIOR DESIGN

FUKA-
ZAWA
IT'S NOT LIKE LIKE WE HAVE TO DO IT EVERY TIME WE...
MEET..
AH
AH
AH
AH...
AHH
...
FU
...
MMH
...
MM
.....

AH
AH
AH
AH
FUKAZAWA ....
LET ME BE ON TOP..
THIS WAY IS OK ....
BESIDES JUST THE OTHER DAY YOU RODE ON ME
BUT
YOU MUST BE REALLY TIRED, THAT'S WHY...

AAAH YAMASHITA
YOU REALLY LOOK HAPPY
IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL "LOVE"?
WELL I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH ME

IT'S OK ALREADY
EVEN IF I PUT IT IN WORDS
I'M STILL CONFUSED
IT WILL APPEAR PROPERLY
THIS "FELLOWSHIP" LIKE YOU CALLED IT
EVENTUALLY I WILL UNDERSTAND IT
THAT'S WHY YOU BETTER IGNORE IT TOO
IF I SAY "I LOVE YOU"
JUST IGNORE IT..

FUKAZAWA
I WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THIS RELATIONSHIP FOREVER
I LOVE YOU
IF THIS IS LOVE,
IF THIS IS FRIENDSHIP
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER
SOAKING OUR FEELINGS INTO OUR BODIES AND REACHING OUR HEARTS
I'M SORRY
I LOVE YOU

WORKING HARD WE CAN BE TOGETHER
HEY YAMASHITA I THOUGHT OF A NEW NAME TO OUR DUO
SINCE WHEN WE ARE A DUO?
SELECT & USED SHOP
HEAVEN
SINCE 19
MORMUSU SERIES." IT'S A LITTLE HOMO
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
REJECTED!
YOU TWO GET BACK TO WORK!
Sola & LIGHT LOVE!
END

BEYOND MIDDAY

From the manga,
Three Quarters

Satomi
Yamagata

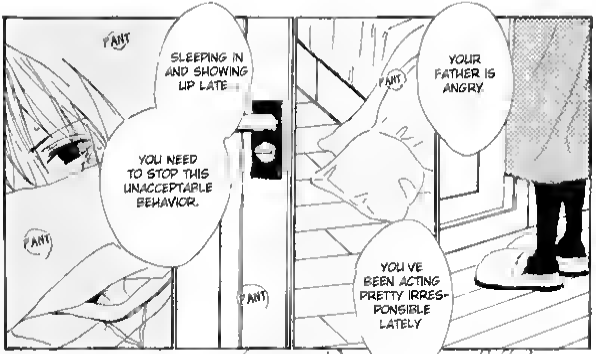
Scanner: PresenceDear
Translator: PresenceDear
Editor: RockCJ

http://presencedear.com

BEYOND MIDDAY

Satomi Yamagata

One day, when I was seventeen years old, I was half asleep at the height of a winter morning—
TIME TO GET UP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S GETTING LATE!
DO YOU WANT YOUR BREAKFAST TO GET COLD?
HURRY UP AND COME DOWNSTAIRS!


PANT
SLEEPING IN AND SHOWING UP LATE
YOU NEED TO STOP THIS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR.
PANT
PANT
PANT
YOUR FATHER IS ANGRY.
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE LATELY

Creeks.
SHUT UP! DAMN YOU, OLD WOMAN
I'M ABOUT TO COME

But I didn't go—
...to school.
I made a living doing part time jobs.
According to the story I'd invented, for some reason, I didn't go to my coming of age ceremony
Over time, I'd perfected the practice of appearing three years older.
That day, I didn't put on my uniform.
I was a salesperson in my favorite store

But
I had my freedom
I did as I pleased
I'M OFF!
NG
BA
BRRRR..
BRR

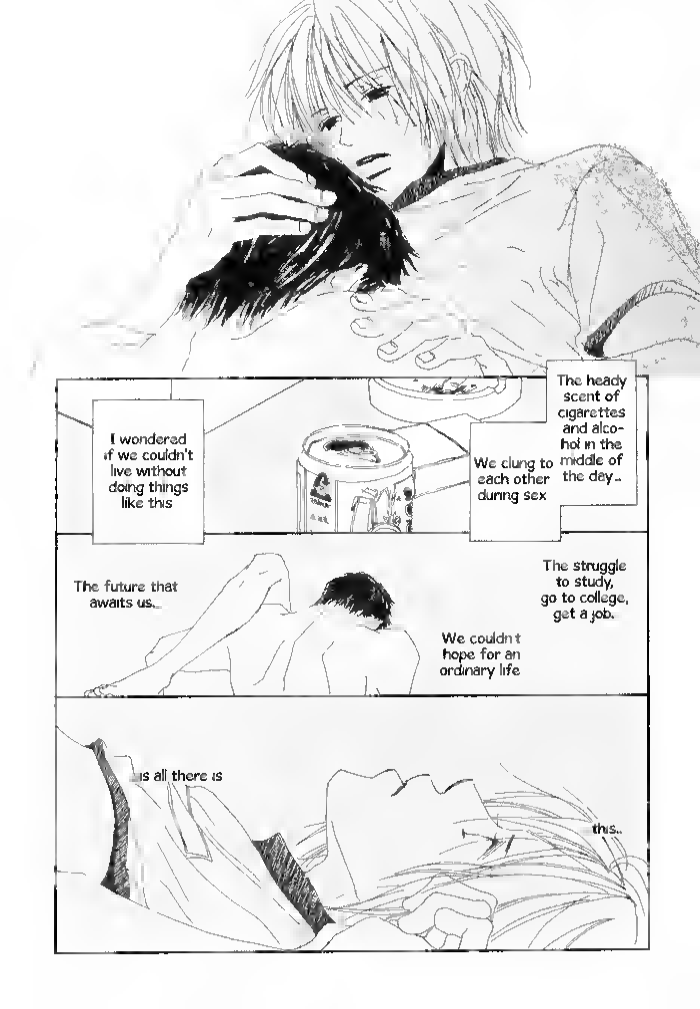
"Hello, Yamashita-kun."
"It's Kishida. Are we still on for today? I'll be waiting at the usual intersection at 12."
Oh. You don't have to worry about the cost of the hotel. I'm a businessman at successful company after all.
I met Kishida-san, 26, Male" on a gay website
HOW DID A GUY WHO DOESN'T USE TEXT-SPEAK
GET TO BE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN?
He's so lame.
Honestly, I didn't like him that much, but I couldn't break it off

..as well as keeping this a secret from the guys.
I hated lying about myself..
I LIED ABOUT MY AGE... BUT
I wanted to experience ordinary love, out in the open, with someone I loved..
But..
..somehow...
..this was different.

UMHM
AH
SORRY IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME HOTEL
UM
AH
This wasn't what I wanted.
DON'T
HMM
AH
TO TELL THE TRUTH AN FRIEND OF MINE RUNS THE PLACE
SO IT'S EASY TO USE
And cheap during the day
THERE AREN'T MANY PLACES
THAT ACCEPT PEOPLE LIKE US TO BEGIN WITH

KISHIDA-SAN
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE SPECIAL?
I MEAN A LOVER SOMEONE YOU FEEL LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH...
OH...
I COULD NEVER HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT
I MEAN DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
I JOINED MY FATHER'S COMPANY AND GOT MARRIED RIGHT AWAY.
THERE WAS NO ESCAPING IT I'VE GOT TWO KIDS NOW...
SO THAT'S WHY THIS TIME...
...FEELS LIKE A MEAGER LUNCH BREAK

SORRY I'M ALWAYS...
IN A RUSH

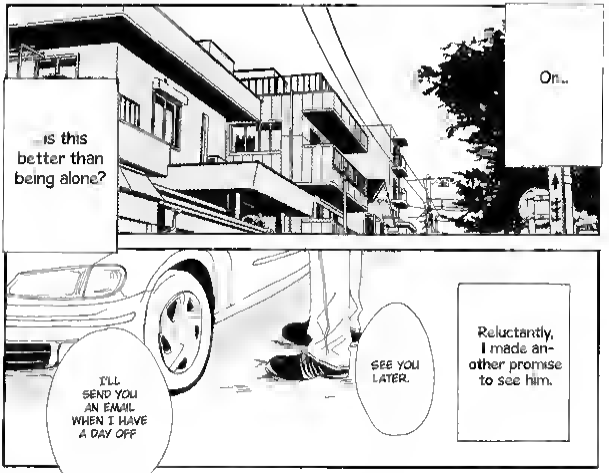

I wondered if we couldn't live without doing things like this
We clung to each other during sex
The heady scent of cigarettes and alcohol in the middle of the day..
The future that awaits us...
We couldn't hope for an ordinary life
The struggle to study, go to college, get a job.
is all there is
this..

PANT
PANT
PANT
AH
AH

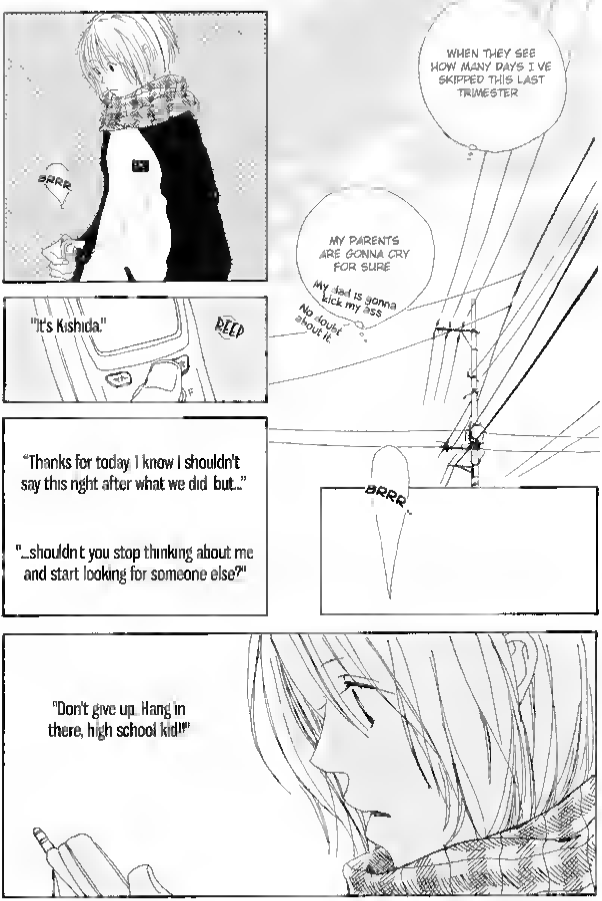
Sadness...
loneliness...

...in the early
afternoon...

Tell me
Why is it so
painful?


Is this better than being alone?
Oh...
I'LL SEND YOU AN EMAIL WHEN I HAVE A DAY OFF
SEE YOU LATER.
Reluctantly, I made another promise to see him.

THIS IS WRONG I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING
NEXT TIME I'LL END IT


BRRR
"It's Kishida."
BEEP
"Thanks for today. I know I shouldn't say this right after what we did, but..."
"...shouldn't you stop thinking about me and start looking for someone else?"
WHEN THEY SEE HOW MANY DAYS I'VE SKIPPED THIS LAST TRIMESTER
MY PARENTS ARE GONNA CRY FOR SURE
My dad is gonna kick my ass
No doubt about it.
BRRR...
"Don't give up. Hang in there, high school kid!"

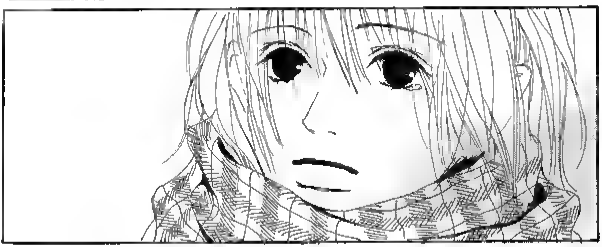
"You've got a bright future."

When you think about it, far, far beyond this sky, it's always night

A dark universe exists over all of us at all times

Hmph

SO HE WAS LAME AFTER ALL



I won't get depressed. I'll look up and fall in love.

"I'll do my best."

I made my last reply

END

THREE QUARTERS

chapter 04

from the manga Three Quarters
by Satomi Yamagata, 2001

Scanner: PresenceDear
Translator PresenceDear
Editor Tailar

Thanks to all who helped out! ^^

http://presencedear.com

3/4
スリークオーター

WHAT I WANT TO DO AND WHAT I CAN DO ARE NEVER THE SAME.
NOBODY IS GOOD ENOUGH THEY AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO HACK IT.
THERE'S A REASON I CAN'T DO WHAT I WANT
THEY MAY TELL ME THEY CAN, BUT...
IF THEY COULD THEY WOULD HAVE DONE IT ALREADY
sizzle
YAMA-SHITA.
I CAN'T HAVE SEX WITHOUT AIR-CONDITIONING
UGH, IT'S REALLY HOT
sizzle
NN
SORRY, BUT CAN I COME IN YOUR MOUTH?
.....
NN
...

SORRY, I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO CALL TODAY...
CALL ME ANY TIME YOU WANT!
NEXT TIME WE'LL GO ALL THE WAY...
sizzle
sizzle
I'M PLANNING TO GET AN AIR-CONDITIONER INSTALLED THIS WEEK.

sizzle

OUR KIND OF LOVE WAS HARD TO FIND AROUND HERE

I'D LOOKED AROUND AND FINALLY MET SOME GUYS WHO WERE DIFFERENT.

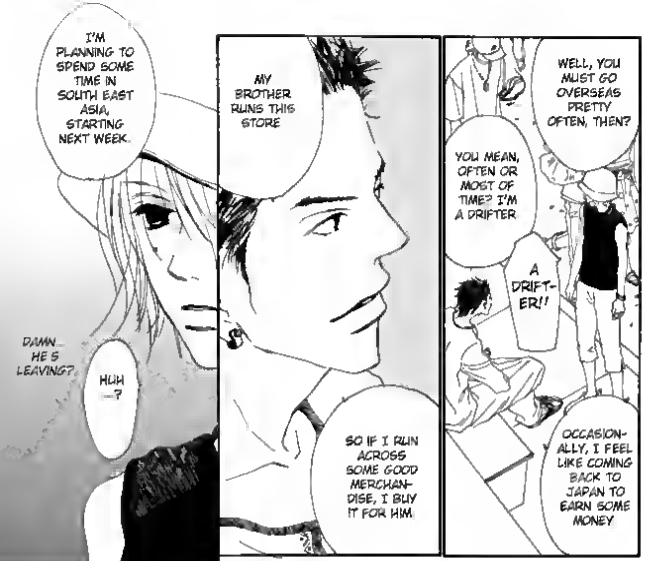
sizzle

IF ONE OF THEM SEEMED EVEN A LITTLE BIT PROMISING, I FELT COMPELLED TO PURSUE HIM

EVERY DAY, I JUST COMPLAINED AND MADE EXCUSES
THERE'S NO WAY AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CAN DO ANYTHING
I JUST WOUND UP BEING PHYSICAL RELATION-SHIPS
MOST OF THEM.
KANA-SAN
I WISH
Or do I seem easy?
RIGHT ANSWER.
Maybe Im just attracted to the kind of person who plays around
CAN I GO OUTSIDE AND SMOKE?
I COULD FEEL CRAZY ABOUT
JUST ONE PERSON.
An orange Asian-style

FOR EXAMPLE I WISH I COULD LOVE
SOMEONE WHO CAPTURED
MY EYES AND HEART
LIKE THAT GUY IN ORANGE

UH, TH
...THAT LONG-SLEEVED ASIAN-STYLE T-SHIRT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU
I WAS WONDERING IF IT CAME FROM THIS STORE HERE...
No, this is really...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH NO! I WAS STARING AT HIM!!
Hm, ?
UH... NOTHING
ON MY WAY BACK FROM MONGOLIA, THE LOCALS GAVE ME FOUR OR FIVE OF THEM.
HUH?
NO, THIS IS MY OWN...
BUT IF YOU'D LIKE A DIFFERENT STYLE, I'VE GOT ONE I CAN SELL YOU
I OFTEN SELL RARE GOODS TO THIS STORE.
YEAH
MONGOLIA!!


I'M PLANNING TO SPEND SOME TIME IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, STARTING NEXT WEEK.
DAMN... HE'S LEAVING?
HUH—?
MY BROTHER RUNS THIS STORE
SO IF I RUN ACROSS SOME GOOD MERCHANDISE, I BUY IT FOR HIM.
WELL, YOU MUST GO OVERSEAS PRETTY OFTEN, THEN?
YOU MEAN, OFTEN OR MOST OF TIME? I'M A DRIFTER.
A DRIFTER!!
OCCASIONALLY, I FEEL LIKE COMING BACK TO JAPAN TO EARN SOME MONEY.

IT'S A BIT OF A SHOCK.

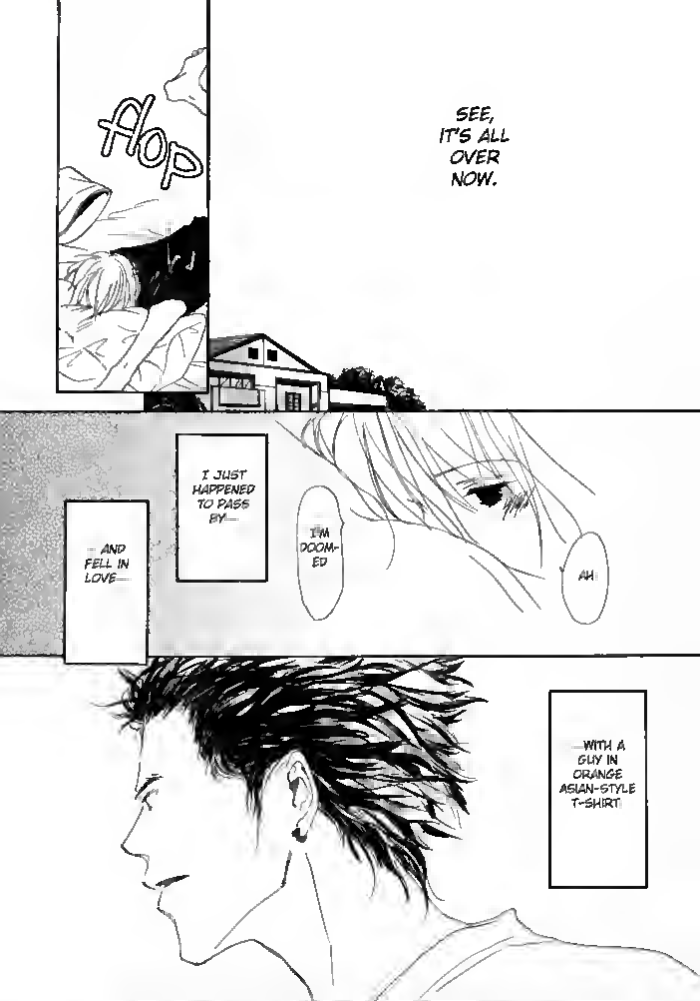
I GUESS SOMEONE WHO HAS A POLICY LIKE THIS—

—WOULDN'T BE CLOSE TO A NOBODY LIKE ME.

This's embarrassing. I'd better get outta here.

WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR AN ASIAN-STYLE TEE?
ER...
UH, NO
WHY DID HE STOP ME...?
AND WHY AM I TALKING TO HIM?
I DON'T THINK I CAN PULL OFF THE ETHNIC LOOK
I MEANT IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU
OH I WANNA GET OUT HERE FAST!
OH, I SEE IF I HAD TO GUESS...
...I'D SAY YOU LIKE A MORE CLEAN LOOK
IF I DON'T LEAVE, I...
THE THREE-QUARTER LENGTH TEES ARE FOR LADIES. BUT I SELL A LOT TO PREPPY TYPES.
YOU KNOW WHAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU
THAT'S GREAT

COME BACK AGAIN ARE YOU ON SUMMER VACATION?
IF I'M AROUND, YOU CAN GET WHATEVER YOU WANT AT A DISCOUNT
OK
OH, I'M CALLED "KEITA."
IF I'M NOT HERE, TELL THE SALESPERSON I SENT YOU
OK
GREAT! WELL, SEE YA!
I'LL BE WAITING


flop
SEE, IT'S ALL OVER NOW.
I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY—
—AND FELL IN LOVE—
I'M DOOMED
AH
—WITH A GUY IN ORANGE ASIAN-STYLE T-SHIRT

...THIS LOVE WOULD GO NOWHERE, BUT...
I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING...
"I'M INSTALLING AN AIR-CONDITIONER TOMORROW. COME OVER SOON."
.....
...IT WAS ALL [illegible] THINK ABOUT IT.
PUFF
PUFF
MY BODY GOES TO ONE PERSON...
MY HEART GOES TO ANOTHER...
DOESN'T HE MEAN "COME OVER AND HAVE SEX...?"
It would be a real turn off if he said that...

I HOPE THAT SOMEDAY I CAN DO IT WITH SOMEONE I LOVE

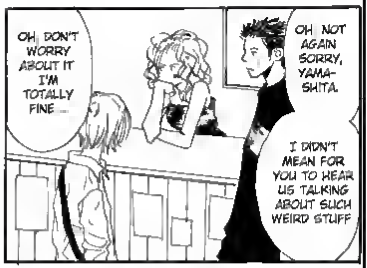
HEY! BACK ALREADY?

THIS IS MY BROTHER'S WIFE. KANA-SAN
SHE LOOKS LIKE THIS, BUT UNFOR-TUNATELY, SHE'S TURNING THIRTY THIS YEAR.
I'M GONNA HIT YOU!
.....
OH MY...! WHAT A CUTIE!!
IS THIS THE ONE? THE KID WHO WAS OUTSIDE YESTER-DAY?!!

Oh, that's nice.
I like this but I could never wear it
WE PROBABLY DON'T CARRY VERY MUCH THAT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU, BUT...
IF YOU FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR 70% OFF (THAT'S COST)
OH THANKS
KEITA-SAN, KANA-SAN
THAT SHIRT ON DISPLAY!
IT'S WORK-STYLE BUT IT'S GOT A REALLY CLEAN SILHOUETTE
HAVE YOU GOT ONE IN A SMALLER SIZE?
YEAH, WE DO THAT'S A LARGE
THE SMALL WAS TOO TIGHT FOR THE MANNEQUIN
OH, THAT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU!
WE'VE GOT A SMALL IN A DIFFERENT COLOR.

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE IT.
I MADE THE DISPLAY A LITTLE WHILE AGO
HEY, WHAT'S THIS...? KEITA...
MAYBE YOU'RE AFTER THIS KID, HUH...?
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH MARRIED COUPLES LIKE YOU GUYS.
...WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING?
UM...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH...?

Fuming
OH, SORRY SORRY.
WELL, THIS COUPLE HERE IS A LITTLE ODD
THESE TWO HERE ARE A NORMAL COUPLE NOW BUT...
...BEFORE THEY GOT MARRIED, THEY WERE BOTH LIKE THAT
HUH?
YE...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT BISEXUALS ARE?
...YEAH, BUT...
I WASN'T SO MUCH
BUT YOUR BROTHER WAS THE REAL DEAL!
HEY, NOW! THAT'S YOUR HUSBAND YOU RE TALKING ABOUT!
WHY...?
BUT HE SERI-OUSLY LIKED MEN!


OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'M TOTALLY FINE...
OH, NOT AGAIN SORRY, YAMASHITA.
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO HEAR US TALKING ABOUT SUCH WEIRD STUFF

WHY IS KEITA-SAN TALKING ABOUT THIS SO NORMALLY ?

UH...

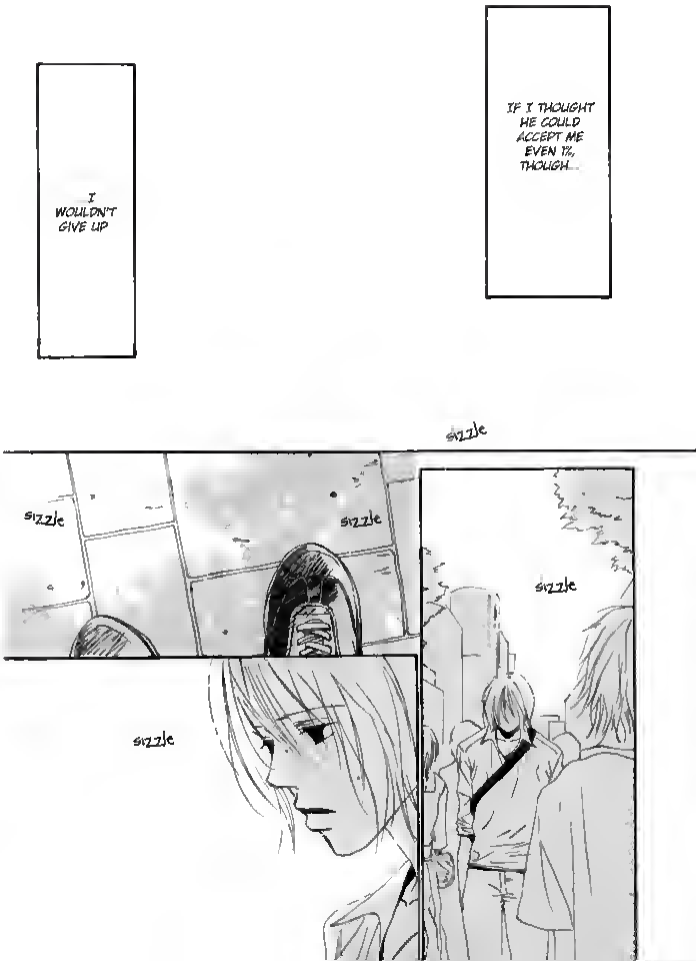
SO I CAN LET THIS GO.

AND HE'S 100% OUT OF MY LEAGUE ANYWAY

HE'S A NORMAL PERSON.

WILL BE LEAVING JAPAN SOON

KEITA-SAN


I WOULDN'T GIVE UP
IF I THOUGHT HE COULD ACCEPT ME EVEN Y/N, THOUGH...
sizzle
sizzle
sizzle
sizzle
sizzle

DID I TURN IT ON ALREADY ...?
THE AIR CONDI-TIONER ...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
beep
beep
beep

YEAH...
I WANT TO HAVE SEX...
YEAH
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX?
WHAT'S UP? YOU AREN'T USUALLY LIKE THIS

I COULDN'T WAIT TO COME OVER.
YEAH.
YEAH
THAT'S RIGHT
I WANTED YOU INSIDE ME.

YOU'RE SO CUTE, YAMASHITA.

I WONDER IF I COULD LIKE THIS GUY MORE.
SOMETIMES, HE'S AWFUL, BUT
LOOK. HE HAS A KIND SIDE TOO. HE SPOILS ME
I GUESS SOMEONE WHO'S CLOSE BY IS BETTER.
NN
SO...
AH
I WON'T SEE HIM ANY MORE
KEITA-SAN.
I'LL GIVE UP ON KEITA-SAN.
AH

Keita-san!
UM...
I JUST CALLED OUT...
DAMN IT!
UH... I'M SORRY.
I...
FOR A MOMENT, I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING ELSE...
Huh?

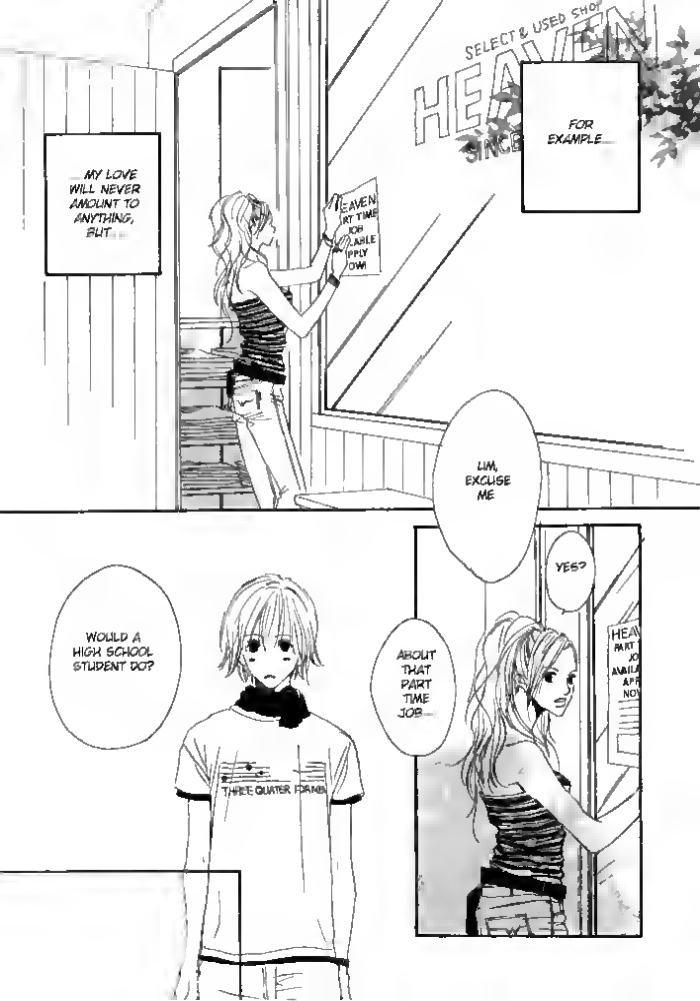
I'M S...
...SOR...
OOH...
YOU'RE SO STUPID
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY CRYING? WHY?
I CAN'T STAND KIDS WHO DON'T GET HAVING A GOOD TIME.
IT DOESN'T GET MORE EXCITING THAN THAT.
WERE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOME OTHER GUY?
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF WHEN YOU TAKE IT ALL SO SERIOUSLY.

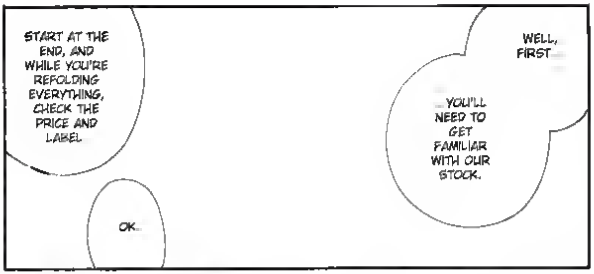
STUPID.
I'M TIRED OF YOU GET OUT!
STUPID.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
STUPID.
AND DON'T COME BACK

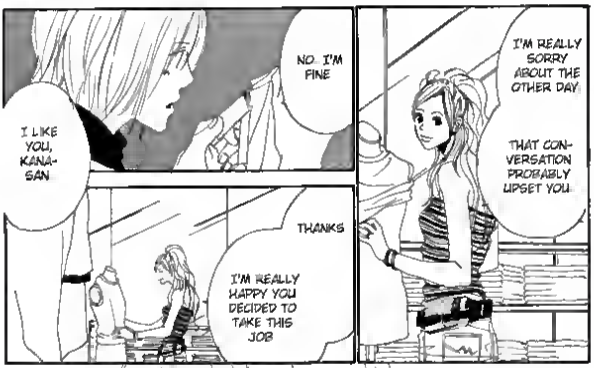
I'm a fool
A real fool
SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO DO IT
I'm pretty pathetic, though...
...I'LL NEVER CHANGE.
—WHO'S MORE THAN HALFWAY COMMITTED
IF I DON'T FIND ONE PERSON...

WHETHER IT'S CLINGING TO LOVE, GIVING UP, OR RUNNING AWAY, I CAN'T DO A SINGLE THING.

JUST ONE WILL DO
"OH I SEE YOU LIKE A MORE CLEAN LOOK."
"THE THREE-QUARTER LENGTH TEES ARE FOR LADIES, BUT I SELL A LOT TO PREPPY TYPES"
LET ME UNDER-STAND
"THAT'S GREAT"
WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME NOW
LET ME FACE IT AND NOT RUN AWAY!


SELECT & USED SHOP
HEAVEN
SINCE
...MY LOVE WILL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING, BUT...
FOR EXAMPLE...
HEAVEN
PART TIME JOB
AVAILABLE
APPLY OWN
LIM, EXCUSE ME
YES?
ABOUT THAT PART TIME JOB...
WOULD A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DO?
THREE QUARTER PANTS

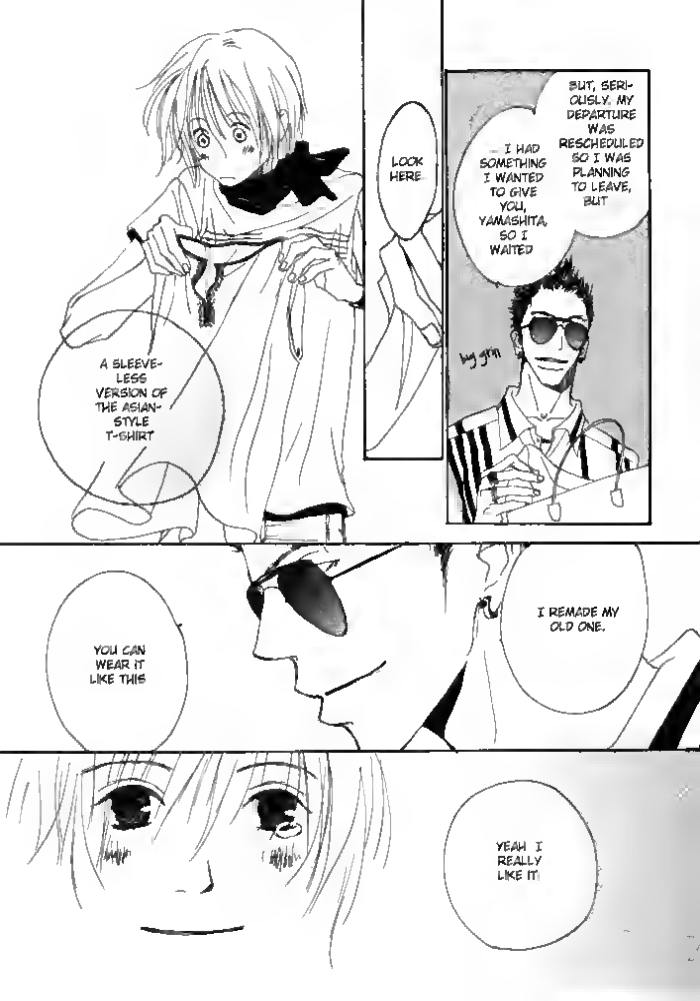

WELL, FIRST
YOU'LL NEED TO GET FAMILIAR WITH OUR STOCK.
START AT THE END, AND WHILE YOU'RE REFOLDING EVERYTHING, CHECK THE PRICE AND LABEL
OK.


NO. I'M FINE
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
I LIKE YOU, KANA-SAN.
THAT CONVERSATION PROBABLY UPSET YOU.
THANKS
I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU DECIDED TO TAKE THIS JOB

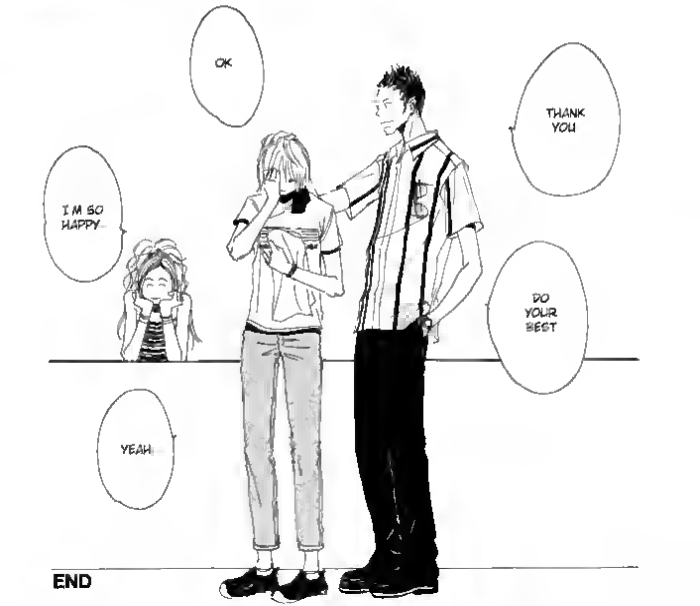
KEITA SAID
HE THOUGHT YOU HAD GOOD TASTE
SO IF I HIRED A PART TIME PERSON, I SHOULD ASK YOU

OH
OH, I WONDER IF HE'LL BE ON AN AIRPLANE SOON
UM...
TODAY, KEITA-SAN—
HUH?
OH
YES—
I GUESS HE TOLD YOU? HE'S LEAVING JAPAN
BUT—
—THAT WAS NEXT WEEK
HE'S REALLY MOODY
IF YOU THINK HE'LL BE HERE TOMORROW, HE'S ALREADY GONE
OR, CONVERSELY, YOU'LL OPEN THE DOOR, AND SUDDENLY, HE'S THERE
HE'S ALREADY GONE
RMEN

I GUESS I'VE GOT BAD LUCK.
A BORING PERSON GETS
...A THOROUGHLY BORING CONCLUSION
I SEE TOO BAD.
I WANTED TO SEE HIM ONE LAST TIME
HEY YAMA-SHITA
...
You cut your hair
SORRY THIS OLD LADY ..
...LIKES TO PLAY TRICKS ON CUTE KIDS.
I'M STILL HERE WELL ..
FOR THE TIME BEING
hii
WHO ?!
argh!
argh!
argh!
You really piss me off


A SLEEVELESS VERSION OF THE ASIAN-STYLE T-SHIRT
LOOK HERE
I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO GIVE YOU, YAMASHITA, SO I WAITED
BUT, SERIOUSLY, MY DEPARTURE WAS RESCHEDULED SO I WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE, BUT
I REMADE MY OLD ONE.
YOU CAN WEAR IT LIKE THIS
YEAH I REALLY LIKE IT

I LIKE YOU, KEITA-SAN
I REALLY
LIKE YOU


OK
THANK YOU
I'M SO HAPPY
DO YOUR BEST
YEAH

END

THREE QUARTERS

chapter 05

from the manga Three Quarters
by Satomi Yamagata, 2001

Scanner: PresenceDear
Translator PresenceDear
Editor Tailar

Thanks to all who helped out! ^^

http://presencedear.com

I TOOK YAMASHITA ON AN OUTING

...FOR THE FIRST TIME

AT THE END OF A LONG SUMMER.

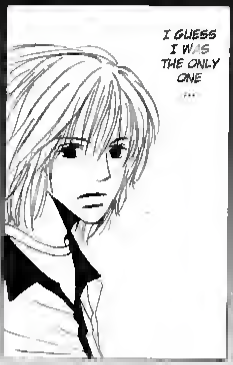
THREE QUARTERS SIDE FUKAKZAWA

A COUPLE MIGHT CALL IT A DATE, BUT...

...THAT KIND OF SENTIMENTALITY DIDN'T EXIST BETWEEN US.

THERE WAS NO CUDDLING OR HOLDING HANDS
IN THE EYES OF ONLOOKERS WE WERE ORDINARY FRIENDS
THIS IS KINDA STRANGE.
OUR LOVE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING IT'S NOT.

... WHO SAW IT THAT WAY.



COME ON, YAMASHITA, TELL ME

WHAT YOU WANT
WHAT YOU CALL LOVE
—WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

WHAT DOES FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE REALLY MEAN?

I'M JUST NOT VERY USED TO...
TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
"RELATIONSHIPS" AND STUFF
I'M NOT REALLY AGAINST DOING ANYTHING
IS THIS NOT ENOUGH, YAMASHITA?
...OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE
A DISTRIBUTION...
IS THIS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING ENOUGH?
GradCwia

IF YOU EXPRESS
YOUR DESIRES
I'LL GIVE YOU
AS MUCH AS YOU
WANT
THIS FEELING...

...IS IT SO FAR
FROM LOVE?

THREEQUARTERS:SIDE FUKAZAWA
END

Because life is filled with memories
Memory For You

Credits

Scanned by Momiji-kun
Translated by Daji
Edited by Zila
QCed by Stella

Blue Fire

Author: Yamagata Satomi

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WHEN I SEE KUSU'S CAREFREE SMILE,
I NOTICE HOW THE AIR SEEMS CLEARER
I THINK I LIKE EVERYTHING THAT'S PRETTY
DURING TIMES LIKE THESE
I THINK I LIKE KUSU.
Blue Air

Blue Air

HEY KUSU! THAT'S MY TOOTHBRUSH
EH? HAYA, DIDN'T YOU HAVE THE GREEN ONE?
IT'S THE YELLOWISH GREEN ONE. I'VE BEEN USING IT EVERY DAY.
LEAVE IT ALONE
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY
I MET KUSU WHILE WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN OUR FIRST YEAR.
WE GOT ALONG SINCE OUR HOUSES WERE CLOSE AND HE SLEPT OVER A LOT.
..AH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THE BRISTLES ARE SPREAD APART, MAYBE YOU'VE BRUSHED TOO MUCH
WHY WE ARE STILL FRIENDS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT, OUR PERSONALITIES,
THE FACT THAT WE HAVE SIMILAR TASTES, AND...
KUSU, HURRY UP!! I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

THE TIME WE SPEND TOGETHER IS MORE FUN THAN ANY-THING ELSE.
A MOUNTAIN BIKE WITH A LUGGAGE CARRIER
IS SO OUT OF FASHION

THIS IS OUR SECOND YEAR RIDING TOGETHER THROUGH SAKURAZAKA'S GREEN TUNNEL
IT'S THE SEASON WHERE KUSU'S SMILES ARE THE PRETTIEST OF THE YEAR
WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE
I DON'T GET YOU
IT'S NOT EMBARRASSING
KUSU, STOP LEANING ON ME IT'S EMBARRASSING
HUH?
I WONDER WHY A SLOPE HAS AN UPHILL AND A DOWNHILL
IT WOULD FEEL GOOD
IF THE UPHILL WAS A DOWNHILL, THEN YOU COULD JUST GLIDE

THERE WOULD BE THIS BIG GRAVITATIONAL FORCE ON TOP OF THE SLOPE,
THEN YOU COULD PULL OUT OF IT WITH A WOOSH
IF IT WAS LIKE THAT,
THEN I COULD RIDE WITH HAYA EVEN ON A CLIMB
WHEN KUSU SMILES,
I GET THE FEELING I CAN SEE THINGS THAT AREN'T THERE

I DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK
THE WONDER OF THAT MOMENT
HEY HAYA,
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE THAT HAS A STEP?
EITHER WAY, I'M THE ONE PEDDLING.
YUP
STEP? THE THING YOU PUT ON THE BACK OF A BYCICLE?
YEAH, THEN YOU CAN RIDE STANDING UP
IF YOU HAVE THAT, IT WILL LIGHTEN THE LOAD ON THE ONE WHO'S PEDDLING
NORMALLY NO ONE WOULD GO AS FAR AS INSTALLING A STEP JUST SO TWO PEOPLE CAN RIDE TOGETHER, DO THEY?
PLUS, A LUGGAGE CARRIER ON A BIKE IS REALLY OUTDATED
WHO CARES? IT'S AGAINST SCHOOL REGULA-TIONS
IT'S AGAINST THE LAW
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

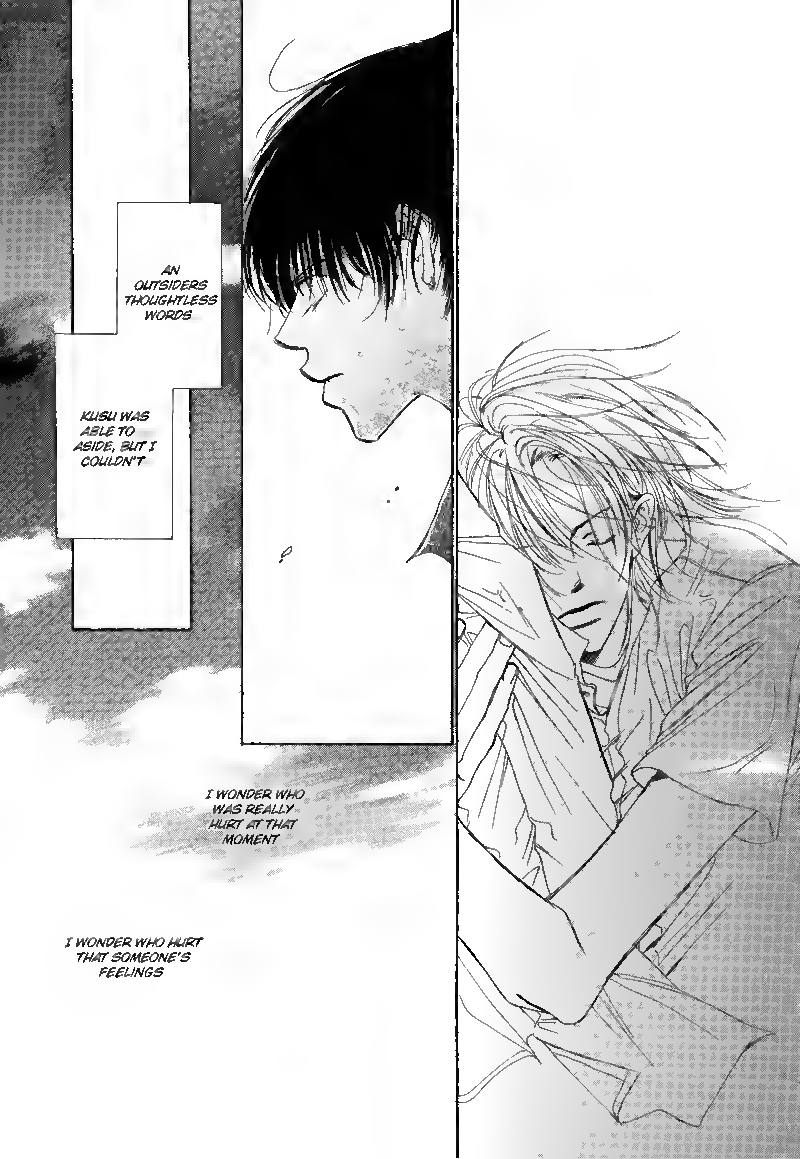
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT?
KUSUMI-KUN AND TAKAHARA-KUN ARE REALLY CLOSE, RIGHT?
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING?
EH... YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT.
HEEEY
YEAH.
SOME OF THE GIRLS ARE MAKING A FUSS BECAUSE
THEY THINK YOU GUYS ARE TOGETHER.
AREN'T THOSE GIRLS STUPID?
YOU GUYS HAVE GIRLFRIENDS, DON'T YOU?

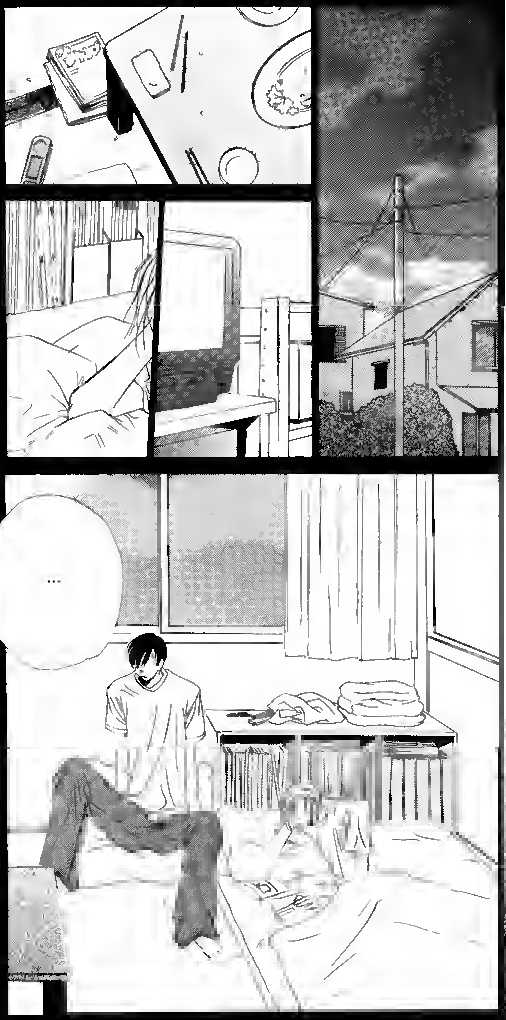
IGNORE
WHAT IS THIS?
THEY'RE MAKING THEIR OWN WORLD
LET'S JUST GO
YEAH

WE'RE JUST NORMAL
ARE WE WEIRD?
YEAH I KNOW BUT
IT'S A NORMAL THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
JUST LET THEM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH US
IT'S NOT LIKE WE DO ANYTHING SPECIAL THAT WE NEED TO BE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT
-AR- ARE YOU COMING OVER TODAY TOO?
Haha
AW, YOU'RE BEING SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT EVERY-THING
NO I'M NOT
YEAH, YOU ARE
I SAID, I'M NOT

IT'S OKAY.
MAYBE I SHOULD WALK HOME?
BUT HEY, YOU SEEM UPSET.
I'M FINE. JUST FINE.
WHAT WOULD I BE ANGRY ABOUT?


AN OUTSIDERS THOUGHTLESS WORDS
KUSU WAS ABLE TO ASIDE, BUT I COULDN'T
I WONDER WHO WAS REALLY HURT AT THAT MOMENT
I WONDER WHO HURT THAT SOMEONE'S FEELINGS



KUSU WON'T LAUGH.

ARE YOU STILL WORRIED ABOUT IT?
NOT REALLY
IF YOU'RE SO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT,
MAYBE YOU FEEL GUILTY ABOUT SOMETHING?
WHY WON'T YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYE?
WHY WOULD I FEEL THAT?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT
IF THAT'S THE CASE,

WHY DO YOU GET UPSET FROM THAT KIND OF TEASING?
HAYA, ARE YOU EMBARASSED BY US?

KU...
I HOLD MY FEELINGS FOR HAYA WITH PRIDE...
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS I HAVE,

I HOLD MY FEELINGS FOR HAYA WITH PRIDE.
HAYA, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY WHO'S ALWAYS HERE?
HE WENT HOME LAST NIGHT.
...?
WHAT, DID YOU FIGHT?
SHUT UP.
...AFTER THAT, KUSU WENT HOME LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT THINKING ABOUT A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS,
BUT IT WASN'T LIKE YOU COULD DO ANYTHING WITH JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
HEY TAKAHARA, YOU'RE BY YOURSELF? THAT'S RARE.
HEY.
MORNING. HUH? WHERE'S KUSUMI-KUN?

THE SWEET SMELL OF NEW LEAVES,

FRESH VERDURE,

THE CLEAR MAY SKY,

A DAY LIKE THIS DOESN'T OCCUR VERY OFTEN DURING THE YEAR.

THE EARLY SUMMER WIND,

KUSUI'S BLUE,

YOU CAN'T STAY ALONE
IF IT'S KUSUMI, SHOULDN'T HE BE HERE?
EH? I DON'T KNOW
HE'S HERE, HIS BAG'S HERE
HUH? WASN'T HE JUST HERE A SECOND AGO?
OUTSIDE MAYBE?
I GAVE HIM MY STEP SINCE HE ASKED ME FOR IT YESTERDAY
AH! I JUST SAW HIM OVER THERE
EH? WHERE'D HE GO?
HE'S AT THE BICYCLE PARKING LOT

HOW I WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE FACE KUSU ONLY SHOWED TO ME

AND TO TELL THE TRUTH THAT EVERY DAY WHEN WE RODE TOGETHER MY HEART RACED

I WONDERED HOW IT'D FEEL TO HUG HIM, AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I KISSED HIM

HOW I KEPT THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, AND HOW I HATED IT, AND HOW I TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM MYSELF

I SPENT ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT HOW TO EXPRESS ALL THESE THOUGHTS,

BUT I ENDED UP WITH THIS AFTER ALL.

KUSU,
I LIKE YOU.
HOW
ABOUT
IT?
THIS
IS US.
HEY

LET'S SWIM IN THE COLOR BLUE
HEY YOU, WHAT ABOUT YOUR LESSONS!

WITH THE MAGIC OF MAY SLIPPING DOWN THE SKY
WITH OUR STEADY GRAVITY

END

Credits

Sleeping Lovers
by Yamagata Satomi

SLEEPING LOVERS ♥ SLEEPING LOVERS ♥ SLEEPING LOVERS ♥

translator: presencedear
editor: txilar
special thanks to fencer_x!

BUY MANGA!

from the manga, 'Three Quarters,' Hakusuisha Comics, 2001

Sleeping Lovers

Yamagata Satomi

YOU'RE THE WORST
slap
AFTER CUDDLING, KISSING, AND REMOVING OUR CLOTHES, YOU SAY, "GOODNIGHT?!"
GUYS WHO AREN'T FUN SUCK...! GOODBYE!!

TODAY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN
AFTER EVERYTHING I TOLD HER.
HOW COULD YOU THINK I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO THAT!
MONTH BEFORE LAST'S SOMEONE
WAH!
depressed
What?
LAST MONTH'S SOMEONE
I CAN'T PUT UP WITH THAT KIND OF THING ALL THE TIME!!
BUT IT USUALLY ENDS UP LIKE THIS
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL? WHAT THE HELL?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
SOMEONE WHO WILL SLEEP WITH ME IN THE RESTLESS NIGHT
WITHOUT THE QUESTION OF DOING OR NOT DOING IT
WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THINGS LIKE LUVE OR PASSION
SOMETIMES I WANT TO PRESS MY BODY AGINST ANOTHER JUST FOR THE SAKE OF COMFORT
THERE ARE NIGHTS WHEN I DON'T LONG FOR SOMEONE
BUT ANY OL' PERSON ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

I'D PROBABLY CRY IF I DROPPED MY CHOPSTICKS, TOO. MY DAYS OF UNSTABLE FEELINGS CONTINUED
THERE ISN'T A WOMAN ALIVE WHO CAN BE AVAILABLE TO YOUR EVERY NEED.
THAT TENDENCY OF YOURS IS STRANGE, MINATO.
MAYBE YOUR EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY IS PHYSIOLOGICAL...
YOU KNOW, SOMETHING YOU'RE BORN WITH
HM... I SEE... PHYSIOLOGICAL
IN THAT CASE, SHOULD I GO OUT WITH A GUY INSTEAD?
OH, SORRY, I'VE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND
H... HUH?
NO WAY! WHY AM I THINKING LIKE THAT?! AS IF, EVENTUALLY, I'D SERIOUSLY RUN TO A MAN...
UM... EXCUSE ME.

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
A REALLY COOL GUY NAMED "KANOU."
DO YOU KNOW HIM?

WHAT THE...?
THIS KID...

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS GUY?
REALLY? I SEE
Is he in middle school?...
I WENT THERE A FEW MINUTES AGO, BUT IT WAS USELESS BECAUSE I'M NOT A STUDENT HERE.
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE? IF YOU LOOK IN THE REGISTRY YOU CAN FIND HIS ADDRESS
HE REALLY SMELLS OF SUNLIGHT!

IF YOU KNOW HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER, MAYBE IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO TRY AGAIN LATER.
YEAH... IF IT'S STILL NOT WORKING, THEN COME BACK.
O..OKAY, BUT...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HIS PHONE ISN'T WORKING BECAUSE IT WON'T CONNECT.
HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER...
IDIOT! WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?
MY HOME IS REALLY FAR AWAY. I CAN'T GO BACK TODAY.
BY AIRPLANE...
!...

roar
IT'S THREE HOURS...
HE'S FROM THE SOUTH.
OH...
I GET IT.
SMELLS LIKE THE WARM SOUTHERN SUN.
BLACK HAIR
REFINED FEATURES
THIS KID
HUH? REALLY?
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, HOW ABOUT COMING HOME WITH ME? WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY WITH ME FOR A WHILE?
ER, MINATO
WHAT THE HELL?!
HEY, HEY
MAYBE IT WOULD FEEL GOOD TO SLEEP NEXT TO HIM.

BUT THERE'S A CONDITION
TONIGHT, YOU HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ME...
I CAN DO THAT...
IF YOU HELP ME FIND "KANOU."
IMMEDIATELY, A DEAL WAS MADE.
THE BOY'S NAME WAS REN.

"KANOU"
"KANOU"
AH, HERE IT IS.
IT OCCURS TWICE IN CLASS C, KANOU HIROSHI, AND A GIRL, KANOU KYOUKO
HM... FOUR PEOPLE IN ALL. THE FIRST AND FOURTH LIVE ALONE. THE SECOND IS A COUPLE.
TOMORROW WE CAN CALL AND LOCATE HIM IMMEDIATELY.
YAY! THANK YOU, MINATO YOU'RE A REAL LIFE SAVER!
WITH THIS, I COULD HAVE FIGURED OUT YOUR AGE IN PRETTY MUCH ONE SHOT.
HUH?
OH I'M OLDER!! YOU FIGURED OUT THAT I'M OLDER?
IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, SO AREN'T WE ABOUT THE SAME AGE?
UM... AM I NINETEEN NOW?

A FREE-LANCER'S LONELY LIFE?!
I MENTIONED SCHOOL, BUT I'M NOT A STUDENT.
AAH... A FREELANCER'S LONELY LIFE IS HARD.
tremble tremble
Seriously
NINETEEN?! THIS PUG-NOSED PERSON IS IN THE SAME YEAR OF SCHOOL?!
HUH?
HOLD ON, REN YOU'RE NINE...
HUH...? MINATO, DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M YOUNGER?
DOES THIS MEAN, MAYBE
YOU THINK I'M SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN?
Hey!
-low voice-
IS THAT WHY YOU SAID WE'LL SLEEP TOGETHER?

OH... SO 'SLEEPING' IS 'SHARING THE SAME BED?'
I ASSUMED WHEN YOU INVITED ME...
"AH, THIS GUY IS PROBABLY GAY..."
(laugh.)
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN YOU CAME WITHOUT ASKING ANYTHING...
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. I JUST SAID THAT TO TEASE YOU.
I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CARES ABOUT THAT STUFF.
IF I'M ATTRACTED TO A GUY, THEN I'LL GET INVOLVED WITH HIM

YEAH I REALLY LIKE HIM!!
THIS "KANOU" GUY.. YOU LIKE HIM?
I SEE THEN IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT
WE MET THIS SUMMER IN MY HOME TOWN,
AND KANOU WAS ATTRACTED TO ME.
WE SPENT ALL OUR TIME TOGETHER, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY THREE DAYS..
DAYS FULL OF...
KISSING..

THEN HURRY UP AND GO TO BED NOW!
TOMORROW, WE'LL FIND "KANOU" FIRST THING!!
mumph
HEY!
WE'RE IN LOVE
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING?
MINATO...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, REN?
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE "KANOU," RIGHT?
THAT'S GOOD

THIS UNGUARDED PERSON'S BODY HEAT CALMED ME.
YEAH.
GOODNIGHT, REN.
THEN...
GOODNIGHT, MINATO!
REN WAS A PLEASURABLE CHILD---
MAYBE THE SAME SEX IS BETTER FOR SUCH WONDERFUL COMFORT.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD ALWAYS BE WITH HIM
BUT HE'S CHASING AFTER "KANOU."

fei
REN! WAKE UP!
I'VE FOUND HIM! YOUR "KANOU !"
HE'S THE FOURTH "KANOU!"
REN!!
IT WASN'T IN PERSON, BUT SOMEONE WITH THAT NAME TOLD ME
THAT HE WENT TO THE SOUTH ON A SEMINAR TRIP THIS SUMMER. MAYBE THAT PERSON WAS—
It's cold
Shiver
ACHOO!
HM? DIDS YOU CALL ALREADY?
drip
AAAH! DON'T WIPE IT ON MY PAJAMAS!!

HEY, MINATO, YOU'RE REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC
WHY ARE YOU SO FIRED UP?
BECAUSE IT'S FUN TO BE A DETECTIVE
I WONDER IF THIS PERSON IS THE REAL ONE
REN, THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT ABOUT YOUR CELL PHONE?
OH! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT
WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
BUT, IF WE GO AND IT'S THE WRONG PERSON, IT'LL BE A SHOCK
beep

STILL NO CONNECTION?
IT ONLY SAYS "THIS PHONE IS NOT ACCESSIBLE IN THIS AREA
OR THE POWER IS NOT TURNED ON"
SHIT...! AND AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE IT TOOK TO COME THIS FAR! THIS REALLY SUCKS!
sigh
OH... NOW I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO DOUBT GOING THERE

MINATO, IT SNOWS HERE?
WHAT? SNOW?
THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I SEE THE REAL THING!
RIGHT!
AS THE DAY GOES ON, IT MIGHT START TO SNOW.
IT'S PRETTY CHILLY THIS MORNING SO WE SHOULD GO INSIDE.
REN, OVER HERE! IT'S COLD.
REN, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN SNOW?
IT DOESN'T ACCUMULATE BUT WE GET SOME SNOW IN KANTOU

IT WONDER IF IT WILL SNOW...
THIS PLACE...
tatan
tatan
tatan
IS NEVER WARM.

tatan
HEY, MINATO...
tatan
tatan
FORGET IT
LET'S STOP GOING...
WHAT...?
tatan
tatan
LET'S STOP GOING TO SEE HIM...
I WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE, MINATO

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING FOR QUITE A WHILE.
IS IT BECAUSE YOUR PHONE WON'T CONNECT?
IF SO, WILL IT BE OKAY IF YOU CALL AGAIN?
REN...
REN!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
THIS IS ALREADY LONG PAST HOPELESS
I KNOW THE TRUTH

tatan
tatan
tatan
tatan
The number you have reached
has been disconnected

"WHEN...?"
"A LONG TIME..."

I ALREADY KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS
BUT, SOMEWHERE, I STILL BELIEVED AND WAITED
GIVING UP WAS FAR TOO PAINFUL
"ON THAT NOTE...
I'M CALLING TO SAY WAIT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED MY SENIOR THESIS"

WHEN I WAS WITH YOU, MINATO...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU GO?
YOU WEREN'T COMPLETELY CONVINCED, RIGHT?
I FOUND THE STRENGTH TO LET GO
YOU KNOW, IT'S AMAZING HOW A PERSON'S STRENGTH...
CAN BE GIVEN OR TAKEN AWAY, JUST BY BEING CLOSE TO SOMEONE.

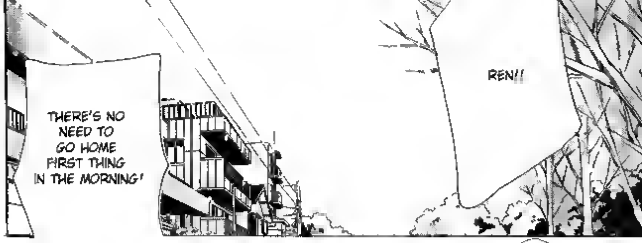
SO HOW W'S IT?
DID IT FEEL GOOD TO SLEEP BESIDE ME?
HEY!
.....
OH, YEAH, WHAT ABOUT YOU, MINATO?
"I WISH IT COULD BE LIKE THIS FOREVER"
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
THAT'S SELFISH...
I'M SOR
YOU WANT TO SLEEP TOGETHER WHEN YOU'RE LONELY
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE?
DO YOU THINK I'M PASSING BY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, MINATO?
I'M NOT STUPID...
"I LONG TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH SOMEONE BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO FALL IN LOVE"
THAT...

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, MINATO
REN...
!
MINATO
KISS ME

SOMETIMES I'M LONELY, TOO.
SLEEP IN MY EMBRACE.

I WANT TO KISS YOU FOREVER.
I WANT TO SLEEP IN YOUR ARMS ALWAYS
IT ISN'T PASSIONATE LOVE. BUT I FEEL BELOVED.
IT ISN'T ROMANTIC LOVE. BUT I FEEL LONGING.
I'VE BEEN YEARNING FOR SOMEONE LIKE THIS


REN!!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GO HOME FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

DO YOU WANT ME TO MOVE HERE? THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING I CAN DO RIGHT AWAY
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IT'S DIFFICULT. THERE'S HOUSE-HUNTING, JOB-HUNTING, AND OTHER PROCEDURES
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
YOU'RE SO COOL...!
IS THIS GUY NUTS?!
clung

THIS, TOO, IS A TYPE OF LOVE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE LOOKS ARE DECEIVING!
MAYBE
BUT YOUR LOOKS ARE DECEIVING, MINATO. YOU'RE CLEVER.
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE A LITTLE
-end-